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W e e k l y

Vol. 7 No. 23 Monday 8th August 2011

This Week's Line Up



ALL THE ACTION
FROM AROUND
AUSTRALIA

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Elastoplast

Souvenir Poster Inside
EPL SEASON PREVIEW



V-LEAGUE ACTION
NTH MELB EYE TITLE

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BLAST FROM THE PAST
YOUNG SOCCEROOS 1991

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AVPL:
LAST DAY OF THE
SEASON DRAMAS

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PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

GREEN GULLY CLINCHES
AVPL MINOR TITLE

GREEN MACHINE!

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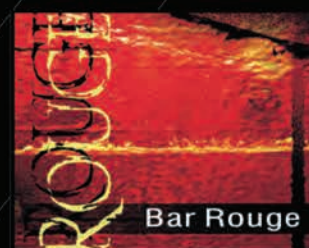
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FFA announce four-year deal with NSW Government

Football Federation Australia (FFA) has announced a four-year partnership with the NSW Government that features the hosting of three 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian qualifiers in Sydney.

The first game under the new agreement will see the Qantas Socceroos play Oman on Tuesday 11 October, at a venue soon to be announced giving Sydney their first match since the Qantas Socceroos defeated Paraguay 1-nil nearly one year ago to that same date.

Under the agreement, the Qantas Socceroos will also play two home games in the 4th Round group stage in NSW, subject to qualification. “The road to the past two FIFA World Cup finals has included unforgettable nights in Sydney for the Qantas Socceroos and I’m sure we’ll see more great action and fabulous support on the road to Bra-



zil,” said FFA CEO Ben Buckley. “The Uruguay epic in 2005 and the 70,000 crowd for the match against China in 2008 were big occasions for football and the city of Sydney. On behalf of FFA, I’m delighted that this new partnership with Events NSW will build on the vibrant relationship between the fans

and their national team.”

Premier Barry O’Farrell announced the NSW Government has developed a wide-ranging package of major international football matches with Football Federation Australia over 2011- 2014, leading to the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil.

In addition to the guaranteed three Asian World Cup qualifiers, the home leg of any 2014 FIFA World Cup™ Asian play-off matches featuring the Qantas Socceroos will also be played in NSW.

“The Qantas Socceroos are about to embark on the road to Brazil and this deal means Sydney will host three 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian qualifiers,” Mr O’Farrell said.

“Kicking off with the Qantas Socceroos and Oman in a round 3 FIFA World Cup qualifier at on Tuesday 11 October, we will also host two round 4 qualifiers if the Qantas Socceroos progress to that phase.

“In addition to these three Asian World Cup qualifiers, the home leg of any 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian play-offs will be hosted in Sydney, if the Qantas Socceroos are participants in those matches.

“So the stage is set, all of Australia

will be watching as our Socceroos begin the road to Brazil and Sydneysiders, interstate and international visitors will be able to be part of it in our global harbour city.”

The partnership includes two matches from the London 2012 Olympic Games Asian qualifiers.

The Qantas Olyroos have been drawn in Group B with Iraq, Uzbekistan and UAE.

Regional centres will be considered for hosting the matches against Uzbekistan on 27 November and Iraq on 14 March.

The draw for the Asian Qualifiers for the 2014 FIFA World Cup was made in Rio de Janeiro last month. The Qantas Socceroos have been drawn with Saudi Arabia, Oman and Thailand in Group D.

The top two nations progress to the 4th Round group stages.

Socceroos face Wales

Qantas Socceroos Head Coach Holger Osieck has selected a squad of 18-players for the upcoming international friendly fixture against Wales at Cardiff City Stadium on Wednesday 10 August (Thursday AEST).

Fourteen of the players formed part of the Qantas Socceroos squad that played in the international friendlies against New Zealand and Serbia in June. Tim Cahill, Mark Schwarzer and Scott McDonald return to the Qantas Socceroos squad after varying periods of absence and Korean-based defender Luke DeVere has been selected for the first time under Holger Osieck having previously been selected in the senior Australian squad by Pim Verbeek for

the AFC Asian Cup qualifier against Indonesia in 2010.

Midfielder Brett Emerton is also poised to become the second most capped Qantas Socceroo, behind Mark Schwarzer, when he will equal Alex Tobin’s total of 87 A-internationals should he take the field against Wales.

This will be the first official match between Wales and Australia at senior men’s international level.

Wales are currently (as of 27 July 2011) 112th in the FIFA World Rankings whilst Australia is 23rd . Wales are in Group G of the Euro 2012 Championships qualification along with England, Montenegro, Switzerland and Bulgaria. On the weekend they were drawn in group A of the 2014

Match Details
Wales v Socceroos
Wednesday, 10 August 2011
Cardiff City Stadium,
Leckwith, Cardiff
Kick-Off – 7:45pm local
(Thursday 4:45am AEST)

FIFA World Cup European qualifiers with FYR Macedonia, Scotland, Belgium, Serbia and Croatia.

The Qantas Socceroos will assemble in Wales on Monday 8th August after completing their weekend club commitments.

Wales versus Australia will be broadcast live and exclusive on FOX SPORTS 1 and FOX SPORTS 1HD from 4:30am AEST on Thursday.

Socceroo Squad

Player	Club, Country, A-International matches (goals)
Tim CAHILL	Everton FC, ENGLAND 52 (23)
Luke DeVERE	Gyeongnam FC, KOREA REPUBLIC
Brett EMERTON	Blackburn Rovers, ENGLAND 86 (17)
Adam FEDERICI (gk)	Reading FC, ENGLAND 4 (0)
Brett HOLMAN	AZ Alkmaar, HOLLAND 48 (6)
Mile JEDINAK	Crystal Palace FC, ENGLAND 26 (2)
Neil KILKENNY	Bristol City FC, ENGLAND 9 (0)
Robbie KRUSE	Fortuna Dusseldorf, GERMANY 7 (1)
Scott McDONALD	Middlesbrough FC, ENGLAND 24 (0)
Matt MCKAY	Brisbane Roar, AUSTRALIA 16 (0)
Lucas NEILL	Uncontracted 72 (0)
Mark SCHWARZER (gk)	Fulham FC, ENGLAND 89 (0)
Matthew SPIRANOVIC	Urawa Red Diamonds, JAPAN 6 (0)
James TROISI	Kayserispor Kulubu, TURKEY 5 (1)
Carl VALERI	U.S. Sassuolo Calcio, ITALY 38 (1)
Luke WILKSHIRE	FK Dinamo Moscow, RUSSIA 59 (4)
Rhys WILLIAMS	Middlesbrough FC, ENGLAND 5 (0)
Michael ZULLO	

POSTIVIE SIGNS FROM OPENING HIT-OUT

Perth Glory coach Ian Ferguson says he's pleased with his teams opening match of their South African tour.

The Glory lost 1-nil to local Premier League side Platinum Stars but Ferguson stressed the trip is not about on-field results.

The Glory controlled play for long periods of the game against a side -Platinum Stars - who are just 10 days out from the start of their season.

Evan Berger started his first game for Perth Glory, slotting in at left-full back while Qantas Joey, Jesse Makarounas came on in the second half, for first his first minutes since joining the club.

The only goal of the game came mid-way through the first half, when the Stars headed home a free-kick from just outside the area.

The Glory got better as the game went longer, adjusting to local conditions and the pace of the ball at altitude.

Aussie Awards open for “grassroots legends”

You might be the one who volunteers to put up the nets at the crack of dawn. You might be the stalwart who’s always last the leave the clubhouse. Your team might have won with style and sporting spirit that had the opponents applauding.

The 2011 Australian Football Awards are now open for nominations of football’s “grassroots legends”.

The awards are conducted by Football Federation Australia (FFA) to recognise the outstanding achievements and contributions of individuals and groups in the football family, from children playing football for their local club or school through to players representing Australia at the highest international level. There are three main categories in the AFA Awards: “The strength of football in Australia is the great numbers of players who play, coach, referee and volunteer in the administration,” said FFA CEO Ben Buckley. “Among the 1.7 million participants are so many great stories of sporting success and selfless contribution to the game. The AFAs are our annual tribute to the heroes of the grassroots and the great role models at the pinnacle of the game.” The winners of the 2011



Australian Football Awards will be announced at a special gala event in October. This is the third year the Awards have been held.

In addition, the Professional Footballers’ Association (PFA) and Football Media Association (FMA) player awards will be presented at the 2011 Australian Football Awards. The PFA awards will include the PFA Footballer of the Year, PFA Harry Kewell Medal for the best young player and the PFA Women’s Footballer of the Year as voted by their peers. The FMA award will be awarded to an Australian International Player of the Year as voted by the Australian football media

The football family may nominate online by visiting www.footballaustralia.com.au/footballawards until 5.00pm AEST on 19 August 2011.

The Categories

• The general awards category includes FFA Medal and Community Service Award. The FFA Medal is the most prestigious award available while the Community Service Award is an award for a member of the Australian football community who has made an outstanding contribution to the Australian community outside football.

• The professional category includes FFA Footballer of the Year and FFA U20 Footballer of the Year awards for both male and female players who have demonstrated excellence on the field, outstanding contribution and professionalism off the field; while the non professional category includes a volunteer, coach, referee and team award.

• Team of the Year Award is open to any team which is part of a club registered with FFA, across all age groups.

Young Socceroos bow out of FIFA U-20

The Qantas Young Socceroos are out of the FIFA U-20 World Cup Colombia 2011 after they were defeated by Spain 5-1 at the Estadio Palogrande in Manizales.

Spain were four goals up in the opening 18 minutes of the match with three of the goals coming from Alvaro Vazquez. Kerem Bulut managed to pull a goal back for the Qantas Young Socceroos in the 27th minute but Sergio Canales was on target from the penalty spot to score Spain’s fifth goal of the match just after the half hour mark.

Although the result was never in doubt, the Qantas Young Socceroos worked hard throughout the second half to restore some pride and salvage what they could from the match. Unfortunately, there was no change to the score by the time the referee blew full-time.

An obviously disappointed Jan Versleijen made his thoughts on the match clear at the post-match media conference.

“Six minutes and it’s already 2-0. Thirteen minutes it’s 3-0 and eighteen minutes it’s 4-0. Then you have to play against Spain which is one of the better teams in this World Cup, who are very good at possessing the ball, moving the ball around, a lot of technical skills. After six minutes you can almost say the game is gone,” said Versleijen.

“It is very obvious that, in the first 15 minutes of this game, especially in the backline, we had some players that were not at a World Cup level.

“And if you’re not concentrating and not in the game then against good opposition like Spain you will be penalised straight away.

“The thing is, when you have to play a third game against one of the better teams in this World Cup and you know you have to win this game, you have to also take some risks.

“But Spain took very good advantage

of the risk that we had to take in order to put more pressure on them.

When asked what the future holds for his team, Versleijen was already looking to the next challenge.

In the other Group C match Ecuador secured second place in the group with an emphatic 3-0 win over Costa Rica.

The Qantas Young Socceroos will now return to their clubs in Australia and overseas to continue their domestic duties.

In the next couple of days Jan Versleijen will name his first squad for the next group of Qantas Young Socceroos who will participate at the Toyota Cup in Japan later this month as part of their preparations for the AFC U-19 Championships qualifiers which will be played in China in October 2011, the first step towards qualifying for the FIFA U-20 World Cup Turkey 2013.

<i>Match Details</i>	
<i>Young Socceroos</i>	<i>1 (Kerem Bulut 27’)</i>
<i>Spain</i>	<i>5 (Sergi ROBERTO 1’, Alvaro VAZQUEZ 6’13’/18’, Sergio Canales 31’(pen))</i>
<i>Estadio Palogrande, Manizales, Colombia</i>	
<i>Crowd: 14,548</i>	

Qantas Young Socceroos line-up: 1.Mark BIRIGHITTI (gk) (c), 2.Rhyan GRANT, 4.Trent SAINSBURY (3.Dylan McGowan 46’), 5.Marc WARREN, 7.Kofi DANNING, 8.Terry ANTONIS, 9.Kerem BULUT, 10.Mustafa AMINI, 11.Tommy OAR, 15.Brendan HAMILL, 19.Bernie IBIN-ISEI (21.Dimitrios Petratos 46’), Yellow Cards: Trent Sainsbury 30’, Dylan McGowan 82’. Red Cards: Nil

Spain line-up: 21.Fernando PACHECO (gk) (1.ALEX (gk) 46’), 2.Hugo MALLO (19.EZEQUIEL 62’), 3.Antonio LUNA, 4.Marc BARTRA (c) (12.Carles PLANAS 46’), 5.Jorge PULIDO, 7.KIKO, 8.RECIO, 10.Sergio CANALES, 11.Daniel PACHECO, 17.Sergi ROBERTO, 20.Alvaro VAZQUEZ.

Yellow Cards:
Red Cards: Nil

Short Passes

SYDNEY FC TO UNVEIL NEW STRIP

Sydney FC will unveil its new adidas strip today when the club holds its 2011/12 Membership & Strip Launch at Martin Place, Sydney.

The two-time Hyundai A-League Champions will unveil its On-Field range, including its new adidas home strip as well as radically different goalkeeper and away strips, as it starts its Membership Drive for the 2011/12 season.

ROAD TO BRAZIL 2014 FIFA WORLD CUP STARTS IN BRISBANE

Football Federation Australia today announced that the Qantas Socceroos will kick off their campaign on the road to the Brazil 2014 FIFA World Cup™ in Brisbane.

The opening match of the 3rd Round Asian FIFA World Cup qualifiers will see the Qantas Socceroos play Thailand at Suncorp Stadium on Friday, 2 September, 8.00pm kick off.

Australia vs. Thailand

Friday 2 September, 2011
Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane
Kick Off: 8.00pm AEST
Gates Open: 6.00pm

On Sale Dates

Wednesday 10 August 9am until Sunday 14 August Midnight - Football Family
Tuesday 16 August 9am - General Public

Ticket Prices

Category A - \$90 all tickets
Category B - \$60 Adult, \$30 Concession, \$150 Family
Category C- \$30 Adult, \$15 Concession, \$75 Family
Australian Home End - \$30 Adult, \$15 Concession

SOUTH MELBOURNE FC GALA BALL

When: Saturday 17th September, 2011
Place: Hawthorn Receptions, 555 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn
Time: 6.30pm
Price: \$120
RSVP: 31st August
Attire: Lounge Suit

SMFC POKER NIGHT

South Melbourne FC in association with Poker Night is holding the very last function to be held in the Champions Bar at Lakeside Stadium prior to the commencement of refurbishment works. The SMFC Poker Night is to be held on Saturday 20th August at 7.30pm. It promises to be a great night of poker and many other related activities as we bid farewell to the Champions Bar. The night begins with a \$100 buy in.

Jets' W-League coaches appointed

The Newcastle Jets confirm Clayton Zane has been appointed Head Coach and Joey Peters Assistant Coach of the Jets W-League team.

Cheryl Salisbury will continue her role on the Jets Advisory Board with a particular focus on the W-League team.

“It is great news that we have Clayton and Joey coming on board at the Jets and with Cheryl I have no doubt they will create a successful environment for our W-League team,” Jets CEO Robbie Middleby said.

BRAZILIAN ACE JOINS PERTH GLORY

Perth Glory has added a touch of South American flair to their squad for the 2011/12 Hyundai A-League season with the signing of ‘Andrezinho’.

The Brazilian, whose name in full is Andre Luiz Rodrigues Lopes, has joined his new team mates in South Africa as a replacement for the injured Victor Sikora.

The 26-year-old, is a left footed, attacking midfielder who can play wide on the left or right.

He represented Brazil six times at U-20 level in 2004.

Andrezinho has recently been playing in Japan with Consadole Sapporo and in China with Liaoning Hongyun.

SYDNEY FC DRAW 1-1 WITH RAMS

Sydney FC opened its 2011/12 preseason with a 1-1 draw against Macarthur Rams in front of 2 349 fans at Campbelltown Sports Stadium. The Sky Blues dominated play in the first half with numerous shots on goal but were unable to convert their chances to make the scoreboard reflect their attacking possession.

Sydney FC’s next friendly is against St. George Saints at WIN Jubilee Kogarah on Wednesday August 10.

Sydney FC Starting XI: Ivan Neceveski (gk), Scott Jamieson, Sebastian Ryall, Jamie Coyne, Michael Beauchamp, Hirofumi Moriyasu, Terry McFlynn (c), Karol Kisel, Nick Carle, Mark Bridge, Bruno Cazarine.

Busy month as Euro leagues prepare

Considering we remain in the off-season in some of the big European leagues, plenty was happening in July. The Asian leagues were in full swing, some European competitions have resumed, qualifying for the European club competitions continue, the transfer window is open and lots happening at national level!

Club Level:- Starting with our Asian wrap this month. Arguably the biggest of the Asian leagues is Japan. After a slow start, **Josh Kennedy's** Nagoya Grampus is undefeated since May and have moved to third in the league. Coinciding with this, Josh has scored nine goals (all competitions) to be trailing by one in the Golden Boot. Shimuzu S-Pulse find themselves mid-table with **Eddy Bosnar** and **Alex Brosque** (5 goals) now starting every game. Great to see **Matt Spiranovic** (Urawa Reds) continuing to start every game in a side that is undefeated since mid-June and gradually climbing the table.

Another Aussie now seeing good game time is **Mark Milligan**. He has been a constant for JEF United as they look to gain promotion, they are currently third but only two points adrift of the leaders. Across to China, and the number of Aussies in that league has dropped with the HAL players returning from loan periods. Beijing Guoan (**Joel Griffiths**) remain second on the table with Joel averaging a goal every second game. **Dean Heffernan** has made 15 starts in his loan period at Liaoning Whowin, which will see him return to Perth Glory with a great level of match fitness. Chengdu Blades (coached by **Lawrie McKinna**) had a forgettable month, they are currently bottom of the table.

Good news however with **Jonas Salley** and **Adam Kwasnik** (loan) starting most fixtures for July. Our Aussies in Korea have all been getting reasonable minutes of late, all starting their club's respective cup ties recently. **Iain Fyfe** (Busan I'Park) are up to third while **Robbie Cornthwaite's** Chunnan Dragons sit fourth on the table. **Luke Devere** (Gyeongnam FC) had a solid month both personally and as a club. **Sasa Ogenovski's** Gyeongnam continue to



Danny Invincible

struggle, with Sasa rumoured to be looking elsewhere. The other action from Asia this month is Singapore, where **Goran Subara** (Singapore Armed Forces) has played every minute since his transfer. **Mark McGough** (Balestier Khalsa) has seen similar game time and has now scored three goals for the campaign.

In northern Europe, most of the leagues are back up and running. Starting in Denmark, where both **Nathan Coe** (Sonderjyske) and **Brent McGrath** (Brondby) started their respective teams' most recent fixtures. **Ante Covic** finds himself back as number one keeper, as Elfsborg have climbed to second on the table in Sweden. **Dylan MacAllister** has certainly made a bright start to his career in Iceland with four goals in seven starts for Breidablik. **Luke Wilkshire** returned after a minor injury at the start of the month to help push Dinamo Moscow to third in Russia.

The second tier has kicked off in Germany with **Robbie Kruse** coming off the bench to make his debut. Rounding out Europe, the Scottish Premier League has also just resumed with **Ryan McGowan** (Hearts) starting the season in the first eleven and producing a MOM performance.

Club Competitions:- Europe

(UEFA Champions League) Second qualifying round. **Dylan MacAllister** (Breidablik) started both legs and scored once however his team was eliminated. (UEFA Europa League) Both **Ante Covic** (Elfsborg) and **Mark Schwarzer** (Fulham) appeared during the early



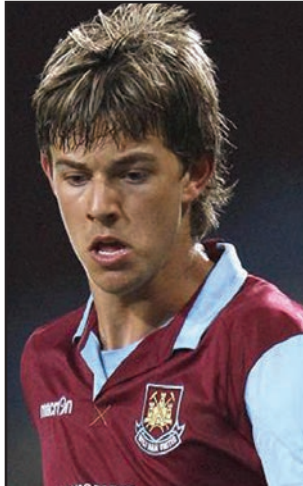
Dylan MacAllister

qualifiers for their respective teams as they progressed. In the third qualifying round, several more Aussies have started to appear with **Holman** (AZ), **McGowan** (Hearts) both getting starts while **Brent McGrath** came off the bench for Brondby. Return legs are scheduled for early August.

Asia (AFC Champions League) No Aussies remain. (AFC Cup) No Aussies remain.

Youth:- While most youth leagues are still in pre-season, a good opportunity to discuss the "Next Generation League". A proposed Youth Champions League will be played over the next six months, culminating in a January final. Will be of particular interest to Aussies Abroad as several of the rumoured clubs participating have Aussies on their youth books. This includes Celtic, Liverpool, Spurs and Bayern Munich. Watch this space for further updates.

Injuries:- Not too many long term injuries at the moment as we kick off the new season. **Richie Garcia** (knee) and **Danny Ireland** (thigh) both look like missing the season openers. **Chris O'Connor** is still recovering from the facial injuries he received back in June. As does **Brendon Santalab** (ankle), who has now missed nearly four months of football. **Aaron Downes** has been playing in friendlies for Chesterfield, so expect him to make his long awaited return from a serious knee injury in the season opener. I am also going to use this forum to pass on thoughts and best wishes to **Dylan**



Dylan Tombides

Tombides as he deals with his health problems.

National level :- Focus this month shifted to the Matildas and the U20's. The introduction to World Cup football for many young players for the Matilda's was great to watch. For a team ranked 11 in the world, a quarter final berth would have been expected. A little disappointing not to progress further given our Asian Cup heroics, but one certainly gets the feeling that much more is to come in the future. The U20's had a training camp in Denver as preparation for their World Cup campaign in Colombia. With fixtures against Ecuador, Costa Rica and Spain, will be a great few weeks, hopefully leading into finals (late news: 1-1 with Ecuador, happy with the point, great late goal to Tommy Oar). Much has been made of the club versus country impact on selections. At the age of 19/20, let's not lose sight of the fact that these guys are trying to forge club careers. We are not hearing of any lack of desire to represent Australia in the future should the opportunity arise. While disappointing, certainly respect the decisions made by those caught in the middle, but more importantly, have complete confidence that our team in Colombia will do us proud.

Transfers :- As to be expected with the transfer window open and the changing of seasons in Europe, a considerable amount of activity. The biggest of those names from a Socceroos perspective being **Mile Jedinak's** move to England. A real mixed bag in terms of locations for our



Mile Jedinak

Aussies with a few players venturing back into the Singapore market, and I believe former "Football Superstar" contestant **Daniel Mitwali** is the first Aussie to play in the Jordanian league. Worth noting that several current Socceroos (**Kewell, Neill, Carney and Madaschi**) are still looking for a new club.

Additions/changes to database:-

Mustafa Amini (20 Apr 1993) – loan to Central Coast Mariners, Australia
Beau Busch (16 Mar 1984) – transferred to Arbroath FC, Scotland
Daniel Caccamo (20 Jul 1991) – transferred to Vicenza, Italy
Alex Cisak (19 May 1989) – transferred to Oldham, England
Cameron Edwards (27 Mar 1992) – transferred to Reading, England
Dean Gardikiotis (9 Sept 1994) – transferred to Blackpool, England
James Georgeff (23 May 1983) – transferred to FC Neubrandenburg, Germany
Ersan Gulum (17 May 1987) – transferred to Besiktas, Turkey
Danny Invincible (31 Mar 1979) – transferred to Ermis Aradippou, Cyprus
Mile Jedinak (3 Aug 1984) – transferred to Crystal Palace, England
Tomi Juric (22 Jul 1991) – transferred to NK Lokomotiva Zagreb, Croatia
Antun Kovacic (10 Jul 1981) – transferred to Churchill Brothers, India
Andrew Marveggio (22 Apr 1992) – transferred to SC Telstar, Netherlands
Ryan Marveggio (6 Apr 1988)

– transferred to SC Telstar, Netherlands

Matthew Mayora (10 Mar 1986) – transferred to Southern Samity, India

Mark McGough (14 Mar 1988) – transferred to Balestier Khalsa, Singapore

Daniel Mitwali (20 Jan 1992) – transferred to Kfarsoum, Jordan

Kyle Nix (21 Jan 1986) – transferred to Gateshead, England

Matthew Park (22 Apr 1988) – loan to East Fife, Scotland

Caleb Patterson-Sewell (20 May 1987) – transferred to Atletico Clube Portugal, Portugal

Francesco Stella (25 Jul 1991) – transferred to USD Borgo A Buggiano 1920, Italy

Goran Subara (4 Apr 1987) – transferred to Singapore Armed Forces, Singapore

Kerim Tansel (14 Mar 1993) – transferred to Ferencvarosi, Hungary

Marc Villaescusa (21 Aug 1991) – transferred to Cittanova Interpiana, Italy

Removed from database:-

Dean Bouzanis (2 Oct 1990) – released from Liverpool, uncontracted

Adrian Caceres (10 Jan 1982) – transferred to Inglewood, WA

Adam Centofanti (19 Sep 1991) – released from Trento Calcio, uncontracted

Aidan D'Arcy (31 Aug 1992) – released from Huddersfield Town, uncontracted

Bruce Djite (25 Mar 1987) – loan return to Adelaide United, Australia

Xavier Forsberg (26 mar 1989) – released from Ottawa Fury, uncontracted

Dimitri Hatzimouratis (6 Mar 1990) – transferred to Oakleigh Cannons, Vic.

Dean Heffernan (19 May 1980) – loan return to Perth Glory, Australia

Adam Kwasnik (31 May 1983) – loan return to Central Coast Mariners, Australia

Jon McKain (21 Sep 1982) – transferred to Adelaide United, Australia

Dario Vidosic (8 Apr 1987) – transferred to Adelaide United, Australia

Stefan Vrbesic (7 Oct 1989) – transferred to Rocklea United, QLD

Alex Wilkinson (13 Aug 1984) – loan return to Central Coast Mariners, Australia

Simon Zahra (26 Jul 1984) – released from Birkirkara,

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FOOTBALL COMES AT A HEAVY PRICE

By Stuart Rowson

ONLY 11 out of 104 clubs in England and Scotland will offer adults the chance to enjoy a day at the football for less than £20 during the new season. A survey by the BBC Sport website of every club in the four English divisions and Scottish Premier League showed that fans in the north west have some of the cheapest deals available for matchday tickets. Clubs were asked for their cheapest and most expensive possible matchday adult tickets, as well as the prices for a cup of tea, a programme, and a pie in order to work out the price of enjoying a day at the football for fans without season tickets. In the Premier League, Blackburn Rovers offered the best deal at £17.50, while Watford's £17.30 represented the best deal in the Championship. Rochdale and Preston in League One and Rotherham and Torquay in League Two also came in cheapest in their divisions, while Inverness are the best value for money in the Scottish

Premier League. This weekend sees the start of the Football League season in England – a competition which attracted more than 16 million fans across its three divisions last season. John Nagle, head of communications at the Football League, said: "Football League clubs are working extremely hard to attract the next generation of fans through a variety of innovative marketing initiatives. As a result, crowds in recent seasons have been at their highest levels for 50 years. "Much of the focus is on improving the matchday experience for supporters, particularly families. This has seen the League introduce a programme of 'mystery shopper' visits to matches in order to assess the experience and the introduction of the Family Excellence Award, to reward those clubs that are offering a particularly outstanding day out." The only question is whether clubs are treading the fine line between providing value for money, or are profiteering from passion and dedication.

Despite the high attendance figures – an average of 352,260 fans attended Football League fixtures each weekend last season – the chairman of the Football Supporters' Federation, Malcolm Clarke, says clubs must work harder to ensure football does not become too expensive for ordinary fans. "This is an industry that has more money going into it at the top of the game through media rights than it's ever had before," said Clarke. "It's important that football continues to be attractive to the whole cross-section of society, so it doesn't just become something only middle-class and upper-class families can afford." But despite the prices demand remains strong. Arsenal have the most expensive ticket in domestic football at £100 for one of five category A games for the new season – representing just 1% of tickets available. More than 60,000 fans turned out to watch them draw 2-2 with Boca Juniors in a friendly at the Emirates Stadium recently. And a spokesman for the

Premier League pointed out that fans are not being turned off by the expense. "With Premier League grounds over 92% full on average in each of the last three seasons, fans are clearly enjoying the football and the overall match-day experiences that are on offer," said a Premier League statement. "It is also worth taking into account that fans want to watch games featuring top talent in safe stadia; our clubs have invested more than £2 billion in facilities and continue to invest heavily in developing and acquiring the best possible players to make the whole fan experience as good as possible." But football matches compare favourably with other live sport. The cheapest day out at Super League side Hull FC is £27, while an equivalent day watching England's four-day victory over India at Trent Bridge would have cost at least £41.10. Newcastle United were the only club out of the 104 surveyed who did not reveal their prices. — BBC Sport website

HIGHLIGHTS

- Eight clubs offer tickets for a tenner: Blackburn, Watford, Rochdale, Preston, MK Dons, Rotherham, Torquay, Plymouth
- Arsenal's pie is the country's most expensive at £4
- Leeds have the most expensive programme at £4, St Johnstone have the cheapest at £1
- The cheapest cup of tea in the country is at Crawley (50p). Hereford is 80p
- Pies in the south west are generally more expensive (Cheltenham £3.50, Bristol City £3.40, Plymouth £2.90, Bristol Rovers £2.85, Yeovil £3)
- Inverness Caledonian Thistle offer the cheapest day out in the SPL - £21.90

Barclays Premier League					
All values in £'s	Adult One	Programme	Pie	Cup of Tea	Cheapest day out
Blackburn	10.00 / 37.00	3.00	2.30	2.20	17.50
Wigan	15.00 / 30.00	3.00	2.10	1.50	21.60
Wolves	20.00 / 40.00	3.00	2.90	2.10	28.00
Bolton	22.00 / 35.00	3.00	2.10	1.40	28.50
Aston Villa	21.00 / 47.00	3.00	3.10	2.00	29.10
Stoke	25.00 / 45.00	3.00	2.60	1.70	32.30
Everton	25.00 / 42.00	3.00	2.60	1.90	32.50
Sunderland	25.00 / 36.00	3.00	2.70	1.80	32.50
West Brom	25.00 / 42.00	3.00	2.90	2.20	33.10
Norwich	28.00 / 45.00	3.00	2.50	2.00	35.50
Man Utd	28.00 / 55.00	3.00	2.60	2.00	35.60
Tottenham	31.00 / 80.00	3.50	3.50	2.00	40.00
Swansea	35.00 / 35.00	3.00	3.00	1.60	42.60
QPR	35.00 / NA	3.00	2.90	1.90	42.80
Arsenal	35.00 / 100.00	3.00	4.00	2.00	44.00
Liverpool	39.00 / 48.00	3.00	2.95	2.00	46.95
Fulham	20.00 / 60.00	3.50	-	-	23.50
Chelsea	23.50 / 87.00	3.00	*	*	26.50
Man City	25.00 / 42.00	3.00	-	-	28.00

Top 20 Teams prepare for Volkswagen Junior Masters Australia

Volkswagen recently completed a national tour with the coaching team from Football Development Australia to help prepare the finalist teams that have qualified for the first ever Volkswagen Junior Masters Australia football tournament in Sydney this October. The team ran training sessions for the U-12 teams in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Cairns, Darwin and Perth where the teams were presented with their stunning new football kits in club colours, one of the many perks that Volkswagen provides for the finalists. FDA Director Cormac Begley commented on the aim of the national road show events: "Volkswagen are committed to the development of the game at the junior level and wanted to bring the Junior Masters Australia tournament to life for all of the players, coaches and parents who were involved in the entry

process. The training sessions and presentations marked an exciting start to all of the team's journeys to Sydney in October." Former Socceroo and Volkswagen Junior Masters Australia ambassador Steve Corica was impressed by the teams he met on the tour: "These teams represent the best in grassroots Australian football. I am excited to see teams from across the country come together to take part in the first ever Volkswagen Junior Masters Australia." The tournament was launched in Germany in 1999 and now features national tournaments in 20 countries around the globe with over 850 teams taking part. The winners of the 2011 Volkswagen Junior Masters Australia will qualify for an all expenses paid trip to represent Australia at the Volkswagen World Junior Masters 2012 to be played in Warsaw, Poland ahead of Euro 2012.



Moggill and Loganholme players get to know each other at the Brisbane event.



Pride of Queensland - Johnstone River Crocs and Leichardt Junior Club.



Pascoe Vale presented with their accomodation cheque by Frank Iaria (Bayford Volkswagen) and Steve Corica.



Shooting practice at the Sydney Qualifiers for the Masters Australia.

The latest Adidas Football Team Wear available to your team.

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Langy lights up for fundraiser



Janice Monk, Di Skelly, Felicity Quinn, Sue Collins.

LAWTON Park at Langwarrin lit up last week with a series of seven-a-side games to raise funds for the family of **Steve Wallace** who died suddenly last month.

Many peninsula-based clubs were represented and photographer Darryl Kennedy of Darken Sportz was there to capture the atmosphere of a very successful night.

For an excellent selection of Kennedy's work go to <http://www.darkensportz.com.au/home>.

It was appropriate that Kennedy was on hand for he had great respect for Wallace.

Here is a small selection of Kennedy's photographs featuring members of the local football fraternity in attendance. All captions read left to right.



Langwarrin's self-proclaimed legends, back row: David Fraser, Neil Collyer, Chris Jones, Gary Brisbane, Scott Powell, Paul Hepburn, Peter Tuckett. Front: Patrick Lee, Cooper Brisbane (team mascot), Mark Duff.



Baxter: Dale Nicholson, Grant Colville, Tony Orr, Daniel Sharrat, Rhys Wilson, Dylan Bookless, Nathaniel Roberts.



John Wotherspoon, Joe Davidson, Herbie Maine.



Pines player-coach Billy Armour.



Caroline Bentley, Chris Macleod, Babs Robson, Joan Wallace.



Referee William Bentley.



Les Strachan, Gail Ak, Lydia Tuckett.



Robert Mathieson (junior), Robert Mathieson, Dave Robson and the inimitable Tommy Mitchell.



Mornington's Kevin McAlister.



Peninsula Strikers, back row: Kane Irrerson, Jeff Irrerson, Andy Miller, Joel Wilson, Kristian Miller. Front: Matt Wilson, Gerard Lawler, Alistair Wallace, Simon Donald.

Balkan Wrap



Alex Milic

Partizan’s Champions League dreams are over following a 3:2 aggregate loss to Belgian Champions Genk.

The 2nd leg in Belgrade was played in front of 30,000 fans but even they couldn’t help their side. The match ended 1:1 with Partizan taking the lead through Nenad Tomic but Aleksandar Miljkovic’s handball gifted Genk with a spot kick which was easily converted by Vossen. The black and whites had more of the ball but their aging midfield was not up to it once more and this is the main reason Serbia’s Champions will not be playing in the group stages for a second consecutive season. Partizan will take on Irish side Shamrock Rovers in the Europa League Play-off. The second leg will be in Belgrade and the black and whites will fancy their chances in progressing to the Group Stages of the Europa League.

Red Star in Seventh Heaven
Red Star handed a football lesson to Latvian side Ventspils in the return leg in a packed Marakana stadium.

Partizan knocked out of UCL



Red Star romp to a 7-0 win in the UCL qualifiers

The Red and Whites won 7:0 in a real football clinic, it was the clubs biggest win in the 21st century and the third biggest in European matches. Red Star dominated from the get go and it didn’t take long to get the ball into the net, the first was an own goal by Martinez but what was to follow was amazing. Andrija Kaludjerovic made it 2:0 and youngster Darko Lazovic’s 30 metre free kick was unstoppable. Colombian Borja scored a cheeky placed chip just before half time to make it 4:0 at the break. At the start of the 2nd half Nenad Kovacevic had the chance to score from the spot but his kick hit the post. Only a few minutes later and Kaludjerovic netted his second and the clubs fifth.

Kaludjerovic was then replaced by new signing Mazenga and it didn’t take long for the Brazilian to make an impact as he scored the teams sixth. The last and teams seventh was another cracker by Borja who struck a devastating 20 yard shot into the back of the net. The Red Star faithful was treated to a real spectacle, something they haven’t seen in years. Red Star will take on French side FC Rennes in the Europa League Play off. The first match will be at the Marakana which is expected to be full to its capacity of 56,000. A record was broke during the Ventspils match as 16 year old Filip Jankovic became the youngest player to wear the red and white shirt in the club’s history. He was

one day younger than Dejan Stankovic who made his debut in 1995. Hopefully he will have at least half of the career Stankovic has had.

“I’m delighted with my teams performance, to score seven goals against anyone is amazing. We came out to give this amazing crowd something to cheer about and I believe they got more than they came out to see. The hard pre-season trainings are slowly paying off but we still have a long way to go. Rennes is a good club but I believe we have what it takes to get past them and enter the Group Stages which will be a huge boost for us and our fans.” – Red Star Manager Robert Prosinecki

Bidevac signs for PSG
Milan Bisevac has signed for French giants PSG for an undisclosed fee. The former Red Star defender has been one of the best players in the French Ligue 1 in the last 5 years. Milan Jovanovic has finally found a club, the now former Liverpool midfielder has signed for Belgian side Anderlecht, he previously played for Standard Liege. Aleksandar Ignjanovski has switched from 1860 Munich to Werder Bremen. The Montenegrin Prince Mirko Vucinic has signed for Juventus from AS Roma.

Serbia & Croatia in World Cup Group
Serbia will take on Croatia in

World Cup 2014 Qualifying.
This will be the first time the teams meet under the new names. Serbia previously took on the Croats in 1999 under the Yugoslavia flag. Both matches ended in draws but to Yugoslavia’s favour as they qualified for the European Championships in 2000 while the Croats stayed home. It will be one of the most eagerly anticipated matches of the decade. The other teams in the group are Belgium, Scotland, Macedonia and Wales. Both Serbia and Croatia are the group favourites and both sides are known for playing better against tougher opposition so the group is just perfect for the two nations.

Zagreb takes on Malmö
Dinamo Zagreb will take on Swedish Champions Malmö in the Champions League Qualifiers and this will be the best chance the Croatian Champions will have of playing the Group Stage for the first time in 10 years. The ‘Blues’ defeated HJK Helsinki in front of another packed Maksimir Stadium 1:0 and 3:1 on aggregate. Rivals Hajduk was bundled out of the Europa League to Stoke City 1:0 thanks to a Ljubo Milicevic own goal, Ljubo was playing his first competitive game for his new club. Fellow Croat sides Split and Varazdina were also knocked out. So the last hope for Croatian football in Europe this season lies on the shoulders of Dinamo Zagreb.

Viva Espana



Pepe Lopez

Cazorla signs with Malaga

A 20 Million Euro transfer of Villarreal’s Santi Cazorla to Malaga is just one of many impressive signings by the Spanish Andalusian club Malaga this off-season.

In June 2010, Malaga CF was bought by Qatari investor, Abdullah bin Nasser bin Abdullah Al Ahmed Al Thani. Sheikh Al Thani (for short) then became president on July 28, 2010 and he has continued to make wholesale changes to the club, in his attempt to challenge for Spanish honours. Chilean Manuel Pellegrini, who had previously been in charge of Villarreal and Real Madrid, took over as coach of the club during the 2010-2011 season, and just managed to steer the club away from relegation at the end of the 2010-2011 season.

“I am very excited by the Malaga’s ambitious plans for the future and I hope that we will be able to live up to the expectations. I am proud to be part of this project,” Santi Cazorla stated. “Malaga have made me feel very welcome ever since my arrival last week. I know the coach and like his philosophy. Our goal is to qualify for European football and we have to play an extraordinary season to achieve this.” Malaga have also secured the services of players such as Joris Mathijsen, Ruud van Nistelrooy, Diego Buonanotte, Joaquin, Nacho Monreal and Jeremy Toulalan. Another big change to the club made by Sheikh Al Thani, was the sponsorship cancellation of gambling company William Hill in the middle of a 3 year sponsorship deal. President Al Thani didn’t want to continue with a company dealing with gambling as it was against his Islamic faith. Malaga have made a sponsorship deal with UNESCO on June 2011. Meanwhile, Barcelona and Real Madrid will have another El Clasico encounter next weekend on the 14th of August before the start of the new La Liga season the following weekend. The match will be played at the Nou Camp in Barcelona and tickets range from \$150 AUD to \$750 AUD.

Capello names squad

Fabio Capello has named a strong England squad to face the Netherlands in a friendly at Wembley on Wednesday. Manchester United forward Danny Welbeck has earned another call-up after featuring in the squad that faced Ghana in a 1-1 draw in March, while Liverpool striker Andy Carroll’s fledgling international career continues. City defender Micah Richards returns to the England fold as Liverpool’s Glen Johnson is ruled out with an injury.

England squad: Goalkeepers: Robert Green, Joe Hart, David Stockdale. Defenders: Leighton Baines, Gary Cahill, Ashley Cole, Rio Ferdinand, Phil Jagielka, Joleon Lescott, Micah Richards, John Terry, Kyle Walker. Midfield: Gareth Barry, Michael Carrick, Stewart Downing, Adam Johnson, Frank Lampard, James Milner, Scott Parker, Jack Wilshere, Ashley Young. Forwards: Andy Carroll, Peter Crouch, Wayne Rooney, Danny Welbeck.

Race for the Championship commences in England

Euro Wrap



Alex Luttrell

Portsmouth debutant Luke Varney netted a 90th-minute equaliser to earn his new side a 2-2 draw with Middlesbrough in the Championship.

Varney, who was on loan at Blackpool last season from Derby County, joined the Fratton Park club for a reported fee of 750,000 pounds in the off-season, and it looks like money well spent as he denied the Boro an opening day three points at Riverside Stadium.

Last season’s League One champions Brighton & Hove Albion gave their fans a thrilling start to their Championship campaign, coming from behind to beat Doncaster 2-1 at Falmer Stadium.

Rovers led courtesy of Billy Sharp’s 39th-minute goal, but a brace from substitute Will Buckley - including a goal in the eighth minute of second-half injury time - ensured the promoted club got their season off to the perfect start at Amex Community Stadium.

Ipswich Town accounted for Bristol City 3-0 at Ashton Gate Stadium, with Michael Chopra netting a brace for the visitors.

Promoted Peterborough United came from a goal down to defeat Crystal Palace 2-1 at home, as second half goals from Grant McCann and David Ball gave Darren Ferguson’s men an ideal opening win.

Reading stole a late point from their fixture against Millwall, with Mathieu Manset scoring a brace in the space of three minutes to earn a 2-2 draw.

Millwall led 2-0 in the 86th minute after earlier goals to Darius Henderson and John Marquis, before Reading’s French signing struck twice late.

Burnley similarly came from two goals down to take a point from their clash with Watford, which



Leicester made a winning start away to Coventry.

ended 2-2. Watford led 2-0 in the 77th minute, but late goals at Turf Moor to Charlie Austin and Keith Tracy gave Eddie Howe’s side a point.

Derby County got off to a flying start at Pride Park, beating last season’s Premier League side Birmingham 2-1.

Chris Hughton’s City led after 19 minutes via Curtis Davies, but the Rams were level when Jason Shackell found the net seven minutes later.

It was another Davies - Steve, of the Derby variety - who got on the scoresheet, scoring the decisive goal for the hosts in the 42nd minute.

Nottingham Forest and Barnsley finished scoreless at The City Ground, while in the earlier kick-off, Leicester City beat Coventry City 1-0 away from home.

Both Leicester and Coventry finished with 10 men after first-half red cards were dealt to Darius Vassell (Leicester) and Carl Baker (Coventry).

In the late kick-off game, Southampton beat Leeds United 3-1. Goals from Dean Hammond, Adam Lallana and David Connolly put the Saints ahead before Max Gradel converted an injury-time penalty.

France
Paris Saint-Germain suffered a

surprise loss while champions Lille were held to a draw on the opening day of the Ligue 1 season on Saturday.

A 28th-minute goal from midfielder Julien Quercia was enough to upset the big-spending PSG at the Parc des Princes.

PSG’s new signings Jeremy Menez, Kevin Gameiro and Salvatore Sirigu all made their debuts for the club, which unveiled Argentine playmaker Javier Pastore prior to kick-off.

Champions Lille made a slow straight to their title defence after playing out a 1-1 draw at Nancy.

Bundesliga
Hannover began their Bundesliga campaign in style with a 2-1 win over Hoffenheim on Saturday.

Wolfsburg, another club who escaped the bottom three narrowly last campaign, opened with a 3-0 victory over Cologne.

Promoted Augsburg fought back twice to draw 2-2 with Freiburg. In the late kick-off, Nuremberg beat Hertha BSC 1-0 away, with Toma Pekhart scoring the winner in the 80th minute.

Italy
AC Milan came from a goal down to beat Inter 2-1 in the Supercoppa Italiana final in Beijing on Saturday.

Results...Results...Results...Results...Re	
Npower Championship Brighton 2-1 Doncaster Bristol City 0-3 Ipswich Burnley 2-2 Watford Coventry 0-1 Leicester Derby 2-1 Birmingham Middlesbrough 2-2 Portsmouth Nott'm Forest 0-0 Barnsley Peterborough 2-1 Crystal Palace Reading 2-2 Millwall Southampton 3-1 Leeds	UEFA Europa League Qualifying ADO Den Haag 1-0 Omonia Nicosia (agg 1-3) Austria Vienna 3-2 Olimpija Ljubljana (agg 4-3) Brondby 4-2 SV Ried (agg 4-4) (SV Ried win on away goals rule) Dinamo Tbilisi 2-0 KR Reykjavik (agg 6-1) Elfsborg 1-1 Aalesunds FK (agg 1-5) FC Aktobe 1-1 Alania Vladikavkaz (agg 2-2) (Alania Vladikavkaz win 4-2 on penalties) FC Spartak Tmava 2-1 Levski Sofia (agg 3-3) (FC Spartak Tmava win 5-4 on penalties) FC Thun 1-1 Palermo (agg 3-3) (FC Thun win on away goals rule) FC Vaduz 2-1 Hapoel Tel-Aviv (agg 2-5) FK Sarajevo 0-2 Sparta Prague (agg 0-7) Fulham 2-0 RNK Split (agg 2-0) Report Gaz Metan Medias 1-1 Mainz (agg 2-2) (Gaz Metan win 4-3 on penalties) Gomel 1-3 Bursaspor (agg 2-5) Guimaraes 2-1 FC Midtjylland (agg 2-1) Hacken 2-1 Nacional (agg 2-4) Hajduk Split 0-1 Stoke (agg 0-2) Hearts 4-1 Paks (agg 5-2) Helsingborgs 3-0 Bnei Yehuda (agg 3-1) Inter Bratislava 0-3 Red Bull Salzburg (agg 0-4) Jablonec 1-1 AZ Alkmaar (agg 1-3) Karabakh Azersun 1-0 Club Bruges (agg 2-4) Legia Warsaw 0-0 Gaziantepspor (agg 1-0) Lokomotiv Sofia 0-0 Slask Wroclaw (agg 0-0) (Slask Wroclaw win 4-3 on penalties) Macc Tel-Aviv 6-0 Zeljeznicar Sarajevo (agg 8-0) Mlada Boleslav 2-2 AEK Lamaca (agg 2-5) Olympiacos Volou 3-0 Differdange (agg 6-0) PAOK Salonika 3-0 Valerenga (agg 5-0) Rabotnicki Skopje 1-2 Anorthosis Famagusta (agg 3-2) Red Star Belgrade 7-0 FK Ventspils (agg 9-1) Rennes 2-0 Olimpi Rustavi (agg 7-2) Sligo 0-2 Vorskla Poltava (agg 0-2) St Patricks 1-3 Karpaty Lviv (agg 1-5) Stromsgodset 0-2 Atletico Madrid (agg 1-4) Varteks 1-2 Dinamo Bucharest Westerlo 0-2 Young Boys (agg 1-5)
Npower League One Brentford 2-0 Yeovil Carlisle 0-3 Notts County Charlton 3-0 Bournemouth Huddersfield 1-1 Bury MK Dons 2-2 Hartlepool Oldham 0-2 Sheffield Utd Preston 2-4 Colchester Sheff Wed 2-0 Rochdale Stevenage 0-0 Exeter Tranmere 1-0 Chesterfield Walsall 1-0 Leyton Orient Wycombe 1-1 Scunthorpe	UEFA Champions League Qualifying Dinamo Zagreb 1-0 HJK Helsinki (agg 3-1) FC Vaslui 0-0 FC Twente (agg 0-2) FC Zurich 1-0 Standard Liege (agg 2-1) Malmo 1-1 Rangers (agg 2-1) Report NK Maribor 1-1 Maccabi Haifa (agg 2-3) Partizan Belgrade 1-1 Genk (agg 2-3) Plzen 3-2 Rosenborg (agg 4-2) Rubin Kazan 2-1 Dynamo Kiev (agg 4-1) SK Sturm Graz 1-0 FC Zestafoni (agg 2-1) Slovan Bratislava 0-2 Apoel Nicosia (agg 0-2) Trabzonspor 1-1 Benfica (agg 1-3) Wisla Krakow 3-1 Litex Lovech (agg 5-2) BATE Borisov 3-1 Ekranas Panevezys (agg 3-1) Panathinaikos 3-4 Odense BK (agg 4-5) Shamrock Rovers 0-2 FC Copenhagen (agg 0-3)
Npower League Two AFC Wimbledon 2-3 Bristol Rovers Bradford 1-2 Aldershot Gillingham 1-0 Cheltenham Macclesfield 0-1 Dag & Red Morecambe 0-1 Barnet Northampton 0-0 Accrington Stanley Rotherham 1-0 Oxford Utd Shrewsbury 1-1 Plymouth Southend 1-0 Hereford Swindon 3-0 Crewe Torquay 2-2 Burton Albion	Scottish First Division Ayr 1-2 Hamilton Livingston 2-2 Queen of South Partick Thistle 0-1 Dundee Raith Rovers 1-0 Falkirk Ross County 0-0 Morton
Clydesdale Bank Premier League Dundee Utd 1-1 St Mirren Dunfermline 3-3 Inverness CT	Scottish Second Division Airdrie Utd 3-0 Dumbarton Arbroath 6-2 Albion Brechin 2-0 Stenhousemuir Forfar 2-2 Cowdenbeath Stirling 1-0 East Fife
Scottish Third Division Annan Athletic 5-2 Queen's Park Clyde 2-0 Peterhead East Stirling 1-0 Montrose Elgin 4-1 Berwick Stranraer 2-3 Alloa	

Cooper inspired by U-17 World Cup

By Neil Favager

WHILE Dylan McGowan and Jake Barker-Daish mull over the Young Socceroos' 1-1 draw with Ecuador at the FIFA U-20 World Cup in Colombia, another of Gold Coast United's young international brigade was reflecting on his own recent World Cup experience back in June this year.

Mitch Cooper, one of the stars of the Qantas Joeys' FIFA U-17 World Cup campaign in Mexico, is now back in training with United and is keen to use his performances on the international stage as the perfect platform for a stellar season.

The Sunshine Coast-based forward performed above all expectations in Mexico where he was up against some of the world's top youth players.

Prior to the tournament 16-year-old Cooper faced an anxious wait as Qantas Joeys Head Coach Jan Versleijen allocated names to the final few places in his squad. But having squeezed himself into contention, Cooper was determined not to waste the opportunity and

emerged as one of the leading lights in the Australian side.

So much so in fact that Cooper's teammates voted him as 'players' player of the match' in the narrow 0-1 loss to Brazil in the second outing of the tournament.

By his own admission Cooper had a quiet match in Australia's opening game against Ivory Coast, but it was the game against the Brazilians, a perennial powerhouse of world football, that established him as a young player with a big future.

"In the first game I was out on the wing and didn't really get involved in the match as much as I wanted to," Cooper said.

"I managed to get a few good touches in that gave me confidence and when the Brazil game came along I was determined to really get into it and help the team as much as possible. It went well and I was happy with the way I played against Brazil, but wish I could have done more against Ivory Coast.

"It was a really good experience and of course I really enjoyed every minute of it. To play for your country and in front of such big crowds

was amazing for me and it's something I'll always remember.

"I struggled to make the squad at first then went on to play in all the games, so I have to be pleased with that and it's a great boost for my confidence. I kept working hard at training and that's all you can really do – give 100% all the time."

The Joeys' narrow loss was almost averted thanks to a thunderbolt of a shot from Cooper in the dying moments that whistled just past the goal. But while disappointed that his last-gasp effort didn't hit the net, the United youngster was still exhilarated by being named man of the match.

"Late on in the game the ball just dropped for me and I was pretty keen to shoot. I took a touch then just hit it and it wasn't too far off the target. It would have been great for the team had it gone in, but it wasn't to be this time.

"I thought I played well in the match (versus Brazil) but didn't really expect to get that honour from my teammates. As a team we did well and we should all be happy with how we played on the day – we should really have won the

game to be honest."

Australia's tournament came to an abrupt end following the disappointing 4-0 defeat at the hands of Uzbekistan in the round of 16. Looking a shadow of the side that had forced its way into the knock-out stages of the competition, Australia collapsed under the pressure from an impressive Uzbekistan side.

The Qantas Joeys were also forced to play the match with only one day of rest after their last Group F match had to be replayed due to a heavy thunderstorm. While the lack of rest and recovery was a factor, Cooper refused to use it as a defence for the poor result.

"The last game didn't go terribly well for us and we had no excuses – I don't really know what happened to us.

"Some people were saying we didn't have enough time to recover, others said it was too hot, etc, but to be honest we should have beaten Uzbekistan and gone through to the next round. They're a good side but we could have done a lot better.

"I played in midfield that day, which was a bit different for me,



Mitch Cooper in action against Brazil

but I felt comfortable there. As a team we were a bit sloppy and you get punished at that level, which we did of course."

So after a breakthrough tournament with the Qantas Joeys the future looks bright for young Cooper. But far from resting on his laurels, the talented forward has his feet firmly on the ground and realises he still has much to learn if he is to make his Hyundai A-League debut

this term.

"I just want to take it one step at a time now," he said. "My first aim is to stand out in the National Youth League as it's my second year in the competition and I want to keep learning and growing as a player.

"If I get a chance to play in the senior team and make my Hyundai A-League debut then that would be awesome!"



BOO'S WORLD

A look at the lighter side of football.



With Mark Boric



KATSA'S KORNER

Resident hack with a career spanning over 700 Games (685 in the Provisional League Reserves) and 15 senior cameo appearances.

With George Katsamboukas

Harry Kewell's wife is the actor in the family, but she'll never star in as long a running saga as his proposed signing by Melbourne Victory. Victory were beaten by Dandenong Thunder in a friendly last week, so expect him to be joined at the club by the next Geoff Kel-laway.

If there was any doubt that Paul Wade hadn't lost the plot (the debatable part is if he ever had it at all), his statement during the week that Harry signing for Victory "would scare the living daylight out of the AFL" must win some sort of prize. It might raise an eyebrow, but that's about it.

Massive fine handed out to Preston Lions at last Wednesday's FFV Tribunal, stemming from an incident at an Under 15's game. A cool \$15,000 goes into the FFV's coffers as they continue to clean the game up, or is it really clean up all the way to the bank?

If it sounds like I'm cynical about the FFV's motives, that's because I am. Last season a player appearing in a game for the NTC pushed a referee and was suspended for an automatic game plus a further 16 matches. But how many penalty units were the NTC/VTC fined as a result of the actions of their associate? That's right, none.

It may be a case of one rule for some, another rule for others. A few weeks ago when the FFV posted on their website that their campaign

to clean up the game was on the right track, it was the fact that the comparative statistics for red and yellow cards between this season and last season were down that was highlighted. A more interesting comparative statistic would be the amount of fines imposed on clubs before and after the FFV lost their legal battle with Whittlesea Zebras.

Did a WVPL game really not go ahead because of a kit clash? Surely a way could have been found for the game to go ahead? Not playing a game because of kits clashing is as embarrassing as the Young Socceroos at a World Cup.



A stuffed Joey yesterday...

Since the Dutch Revolution we had to have, does anyone remember Australia actually winning games at the Under 20 World Cup? You need a decent long term memory because it was back in 2003, against Brazil no less. So much for a great leap forward. And I started this paragraph before the game against Spain kicked-off, which is currently at 1-5 after thirty-five minutes. I would hope police officers from the Fraud Squad will be at the airport to arrest Jan Versleijen should he ever try and enter our country again.

Talk of the Town this week continues to be Melbourne Victory's pursuit of Politix Clothing Pin Up Boy, Harry Kewell.

The Victory Powerbrokers gave Kewell a deadline late last week, and when Kewell did not provide a response, they then extended the deadline by eight hours so as to match the European Time, just in case there was any confusion as to which time zone Kewell should go by, for his answer.

Seems that Victory and confusion go hand in hand, especially when it comes to International Time Zones, and currency, as a few years back when they were trying to sign a Brazilian Player, who in all this excitement, his name escapes me, where their offer was in Australian Dollars, and the Brazilian's Management thought it was in US Dollars.

Speaking of Brazilians, there are a number of Club Powerbrokers who have an affection for them, and I am not talking about the Brazilian Players.

Back to Kewell we go, still no yes or no from him, with Victory getting rather toey for an answer either way, and their persistent pursuit of Kewell can be compared to that of certain Club Powerbrokers efforts to "Score" at some of Melbourne's finest Over 28 Venues.

With the Melbourne Victory we shall stay where last week, behind closed doors, they suffered a 1-0 defeat at the hands of the Opa Opa Dandenong Thunders Boys.

Over to the House of Darebin we go where Mark and Co have been rather low key of late, however, it seems that Mark is saving himself for the Big Media Players such as The Age, and 3AW where



The once mighty Preston Lions are on the brink of extinction as they battle the GFC at Connor Reserve. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

during the week, it was reported that the FFV's zero tolerance policy towards abuse of Referees is here to stay, after Preston Lions were fined a whopping \$15,000, due to a spectator at one of their match's abusing the 17 year old Man In Black.

This \$15,000 fine as well as Prestons current debts of \$100,000 seriously jeopardises their ability to continue operating.

After reading Boo's column on a weekly basis, it seems that there is some commonality with his article and mine, and as such I have had my network scanned to ensure that Boo is not hacking into my System.

Then again, there is the saying that "Great Minds Think Alike", somehow I don't think that anything that Boo and I think comes anywhere near Greatness.

I bumped into a VPL Coach last week, in the wee hours of a Saturday Morning last week, where both he and I took on J Walker

and lost. and he told me that should his team finish second after the Home and Away Rounds, that they will go on to Win the Championship.

His name will remain anonymous to protect the Guilty, and the outcome of the prediction will certainly be known in a few weeks time. where..

The VPL Finals will be played and I urge the Punters that want to go to the Grand Final at AAMI Stadium to get tickets early, to avoid disappointment....

Until Next Week

This is Katsa - Just as you have known him

Young Socceroos in Portugal 1991

BLAST
FROM
THE PAST



With Roy Hay

By the time you read this we will know if the Young Socceroos have pulled off a miracle and beaten Spain to qualify for the knock-out stages of the World Youth Cup in Colombia. In 1991 their predecessors reached the play-off for third place in Portugal, having held the host nation to a single goal in a pulsating semi-final in front of 112,538 fans in the Estadio de Luz in Lisbon. That was Portugal's 'golden generation' which included Luis Figo, Rui Costa, Joao Pinto and Jorge Costa and was coached by Carlos Queiros.

Les Scheinflug took the young Socceroos to Fiji in September 1990 for an Oceania qualifying tournament involving five countries who played a round robin. The first match on 1st September was with Vanuatu and the Australians won by six goals to nil. Kris Trajanovski and David Seal each had two and Paul Okon and Steve Corica got the others. Tahiti came next and this time the Young Socceroos scored seven without reply. Matthew Bingley, Steve Corica and Kris Trajanovski each bagged a double and the other goal was an own goal following a corner kick by David Seal. Host nation Fiji tried to put a up defensive barrier but went down by three goals to nil, scored by Trajanovski, Okon and Lorenz Kindtner. That left the final match against New Zealand, but once again the young Socceroos were rampant and banged in another six unanswered goals. This time Seal scored a hat-trick and Bradley Maloney got two and Trajanovski one.

The next stage was much tougher though Australia had the advantage of playing both games against Israel at the Sydney Football Stadium in March 1991. Israel beat a very flat Young Socceroo team in the first match on 6 March by a single goal scored by Cohen in the 51st minute. The second game on 9 March saw Australia take an early two-goal lead through Seal after 6 minutes and Trajanovski in 17. Torjman pulled a goal back for Israel in 33 minutes, but the drama came in the final moments as Israel had the ball in the net twice but were denied both times for offside. Israeli defender Felix Halfon was sent off for overdoing his protest at the decisions. Even so it is not clear to me why Australia went through, unless the second game was regarded as the away leg and Australia's goals counted double when the aggregate was tied. I asked Les Scheinflug and he thinks that is correct. An appeal by the Israeli general secretary to FIFA must also have failed to change the result.

So the Young Socceroos set off for Portugal in June to confront Trinidad and Tobago with Dwight Yorke in its line-up, the USSR and Egypt. Australia began with a two-nil win over Trinidad and Tobago. Yorke twice brought the best out of keeper Mark Bosnich, but the Young Socceroos dominated the match and went ahead with Paul Okon penalty in 54 minutes after David Seal had been upended. Seal made sure with a second goal in 78 minutes, but the strikers missed a number of chances. Brad Maloney's 25-metre pile-

driver was the only goal of a tight second match against the Soviet Union. Skipper Paul Okon was outstanding as sweeper and made such an impression that his transfer to FC Brugge in Belgium was probably settled on the spot. Knocking off one of the major powers in the game by pure football surprised many on-lookers including FIFA President Joao Havelange who said it was one of the best youth games he had seen. The final group match against Egypt was settled by a 43rd minute strike from Kris Trajanovski who replaced Mark Silic in the starting line-up for this game.

The quarter final against Syria was a very tight affair, which ended one-all after extra-time. David Seal headed home a long ball from full-back Robbie Stojcevski in 20 minutes, but the Syrians equalised when Abdullah Mando intercepted an Okon clearance and volleyed it past Bosnich. Australia hit the woodwork three times but could not get the winner and it went to penalties. Bosnich was the hero saving two and Robbie Stanton, who came on as substitute, scored the decisive sudden death kick. That set up a semi-final against the host nation.

Portugal had earlier won a bad-tempered match against Argentina which had three players sent off, but in front of a packed stadium it was always expected to account for Australia. The Australians had to communicate by sign-language as they could not hear each other, even when standing together, thanks to the noise in the stadium. The Young Socceroos held their opponents until the last minute of the first half, when Rui Costa curled a shot into the corner and away from the leaping Bosnich. Attacking in the second half, Adem Poric and Kris Trajanovski had net-bound efforts saved by Fernando Brassard.

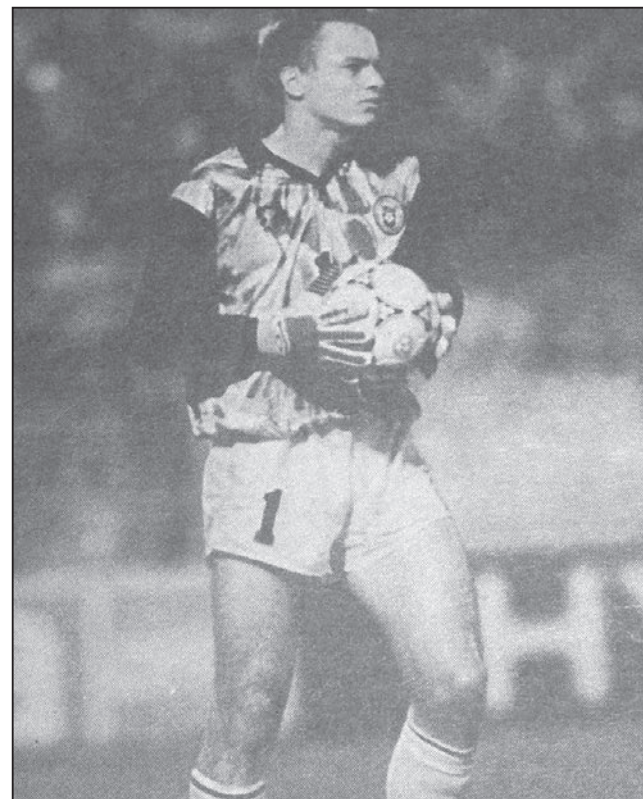
In the bronze medal match Australia faced the Soviet Union again and this time the teams were level after ninety minutes and the dreaded shoot-out took place then, rather than after extra-time. Cherbakov gave the Russians an early lead from the penalty spot after Tony Popovic brought down Konavolov in 38 minutes. The Aussies kept plugging away and got an equaliser with only three minutes left through David Seal after an indirect free kick was tapped to him. This time Robbie Stanton's sudden-death kick missed and their opponents won 5-4 on penalties. The Australians were presented with bronze medals for their performance, though the Russians finished third overall. Portugal went on to win the final against Brazil on penalties after a scoreless draw.

The Australian squad which took part in the final tournament included Mark Bosnich, Robert Spasevski, Robert Stojcevski, Kevin Muscat, Tony Popovic, Paul Okon, Lorenz Kindtner, Bradley Maloney, Steve Corica, Kris Trajanovski, Mark Silic, David Seal, Mark Babic, Robbie Stanton, Matthew Bingley, Adem Poric, George Sorras and Mark Schwarzer. Coach: Les Scheinflug. Assistant coach: Raul Blanco.

Our Very Own Lisbon Lions



David Seal, Marconi striker. Source: Laurie Schwab collection. Deakin University Library.



Mark Bosnich. Source: Australian Soccer Weekly, 13 August 1991, p. 1.



Young Socceroos versus Israel. Australian Soccer Weekly, 9 March 1991, p. 1.



Les Scheinflug: Youth coach extraordinaire. Source: Laurie Schwab collection. Deakin University Library.



Victorian members of the Young Socceroos with their medals. Left to right: Mark Silic, Robert Spasevski, Robert Stojcevski, Kevin Muscat, Kris Trajanovski, Lorenz Kindtner. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.

Latin
Wrap

Francis Fields

At the San Carlos de Apoquindo stadium located on the foothills of the Andes mountains in Santiago, host club Universidad Católica were playing perfectly up until late into the first half against Deportes Iquique when the local side were two goals up and snow began to cover the pitch.

For those present it was a lovely landscape to witness as the city was covered in white. Universidad Católica ran away 4-1 victors in what was the opening round of the Clausura (closing) championship for 2011. It was also a first in Chilean football during the domestic club season.

That was not the only match to be halted as club side Cobresal located up north in the dry Atacama desert in the city of El Salvador also witnessing a surprising and imminent cover of snowfall forcing their first round home match against giant Colo-Colo to be suspended for a later date.

Another round of incidents occurred in the week but over in the port city of Valparaíso where club side Santiago Wanderers -the oldest football club in the country- found itself in hot water after losing their opening round match to southern outfit Ñublense by the single margin.

It just so happens to be that outspoken Ñublense coach Jorge Garcés, whom once carried the top job of the national team as caretaker over eight years ago is also the former boss at Santiago Wanderers.

The local fans in Valparaíso enraptured their anger and discontent at their poor performances and late and invaded the pitch. They began aggressively attacking their own players, with insults and the like as a sign of lacking character. They have taken their actions higher with the club's board and their Argentinean coach Juan Manuel Llop resigned during the week.

Also during the week, current captain and former Chilean World Cup international from France '98, veteran Moisés Villarroel declared a few hot-headed words to the media describing the poor

A Chilly Snowfall Opening Week In Chile



Defender Gabriel Milito looking a bit like the devil as he returns to Avellaneda with his former team Independiente, the "Diablos Rojos" or the Red Devils in Argentina.

habits and lack of professionalism that former coach Jorge Garcés instructs as coach.

Having had two spells at the club, the current Wanderers captain signalled that it is only a case of understanding why Garcés left the club in the circumstances that unfolded.

Villarroel outlined that if Garcés, who at Ñublense was warmly given a reception in Valparaíso last weekend against his former club was to ever return to Wanderers, he would leave.

Now a new line of controversy faces the club as the newly appointed caretaker coach will be no other than Héctor Robles, a former captain at the club who lead Wanderers to the Chilean title in 2001 under Garcés and whom now has a son in the first team squad. A case of nepotism at a club that does not seem to be distant with controversy.

Milito back to his old devil days

FC Barcelona has agreed to terminate the contract of defender, Argentinean international Gabriel Milito who has been released and officially presented in the week returning to his former club Independiente of Avellaneda.

Having also played at Real Zaragoza alongside countrymen Pablo Aimar and Roberto Ayala, he also shared dressing rooms with Lionel Messi and Javier Mascherano whilst winning 10 titles with the Catalan club.

Milito returns to his homeland to the current Copa Sudamericana holders where at

Independiente, the so-called Red devils last won the Argentine title in 2002 with then coach Américo "Tolo" Gallego, now across the border at the helm with Colo-Colo.

Independiente has returned to Buenos Aires to kick-off the Argentinean Apertura (opening championship) for 2011-12 after a stint in Japan losing the Suruga Bank Cup on penalty kicks to J-League side Jubilo Iwata 4-2 after scores were even at two apiece.

Corinthians feeling the pressure

Corinthians have stopped the rot of two consecutive defeats but not rediscovered their form as Ronaldinho's Flamengo threaten to overtake them at the top of the Brazilian championship.

Corinthians who won nine of their opening 10 matches, were unconvincing last Wednesday in their 2-1 home victory over bottom team America-MG. Flamengo, with Ronaldinho inspirational once again, beat Cruzeiro 1-0 away at the Aligador's Arena in Sete Lagoas for a third consecutive win that kept them one point behind the leaders.

Corinthians' Jorge Henrique scored the fastest goal of the championship to put them 1-0 up after 28 seconds at the Pacaembu in Sao Paulo when he got a touch to William's diagonal shot. However, the team played poorly and allowed the visitors to equalise with a header from striker Kempes in the 15th minute.

Midfielder Paulinho scored the winner in the 67th from a free kick by Alex and America

had Gilson sent off for a second booking but still Corinthians failed to dominate.

Unbeaten Flamengo scored in first-half stoppage time when striker Deivid netted with a right-foot shot from a fine pass by Ronaldinho, the championship's top scorer with nine goals whose form could earn him a recall to the Brazil team.

Copa Libertadores champions Santos lost 2-0 at third-placed Vasco da Gama, their sixth defeat in 11 matches and third in a row, and are in the relegation zone.

Boca back from tour with signings

Uruguayan goalkeeper Sebastián Sosa has bolstered the backline for Boca Juniors as the former Peñarol custodian revealed it is "a dream to come true" and which he hopes to fulfill every potential in his new life in Argentina.

Sosa said it is an honour to sign with the important Buenos Aires-based club and that is undoubtedly a given to fight for the championship.

The former Peñarol goalkeeper highlighted the need for a top club to emphasise in having depth in the squad. "The more goalkeepers, the better and although it is tough it is not about fighting for a spot, it is about being an addition to the team and aspire right to the top."

Boca Juniors returned from a tour of England with games in the Emirates Cup last week against Arsenal and Paris Saint Germain. Club president Jorge Ameal has been busy lately with the club trying to sort out more signings, espe-



Uruguayan goalkeeper Juan Castillo again caught up in the news as his team Colo-Colo's opening match against Cobresal was suspended.

cially with the ongoing chase of Real Madrid midfielder Fernando Gago to return to his home country.

Indonesian base in Chile and Uruguay

The under-19 Indonesian national side have been based in Chile recently and have caught of the attention of some local reporters.

With the focus on qualification for the 2013 Under 20 World Cup to be held in China, the Indonesians have matches lined up against club sides Universidad de Chile, Colo-Colo, Universidad Católica, Audax Italiano - all in Santiago and O'Higgins in Rancagua - a city 90 kms south of the capital.

The fact this national side has been based for two years in Montevideo is somewhat interesting as the players look to engage and adapt into life in a more football culture. Several clubs in Montevideo are regular playing teams that enable the Indonesians to test themselves out along with an intense training program.

Stand-out player Julian Arimbawa, 19 years of age says that back in Indonesia there is particular interest in South American football with some knowledge of the clubs and notable players such as FC Barcelona new signing Alexis Sánchez.

He also said that Chilean defender Luis Hicks who plays with the Medan Chiefs is well known in the Indonesian Premier League and is thankful the football Federation has provided a program for developing youth in time for the 2014 World Cup campaign for Brazil and beyond in a differ-

ent culture, very different and challenging to back home.

FIFA U-20 World Cup update

Six-time champion Argentina defeat North Korea last Friday in its final group match in the U-20 World Cup in Colombia to advance to the second round of the tournament and sending the Asian side home.

Facundo Ferreyra opened the scoring in the 36th minute, with second-half goals coming from Lucas Villafañe in the 84th and Adrian Cirigliano in stoppage time. Coach Walter Perazzo played the match without star Erik Lamela who has an ankle injury.

"We had to win a spot in the next round, and Argentina went after the match — but patiently," Perazzo said. "It was a strange match. We created a lot of chances but it took us time to break through."

The victory gave Argentina seven points from three matches and top spot in Group F. North Korea finished last in the group with one point. Mexico advanced with four points following a 0-0 draw with England. The English have three points and are relying on other results to advance.

Despite needing a victory, North Korea played a defensive game, with Argentina having 60 percent of possession.

"Argentina is a very strong team and attacking would not have been prudent," North Korea coach Jo Tong Sop said.

Argentina has won this event six times, including five of the last eight.

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AS ROMA



NSW

Mike Salter

Sydney Olympic's apparently unstoppable run to the Premiership received a serious blow on Sunday afternoon, when they were beaten 4-2 at home by second-placed Sydney United. An early goal for defender Michael Cindric, followed by a brace from the ever-dependable Steven Hayes, brought United within three points of their adversaries, who could not dent United's lead in the second half despite playing with a man more.

Elsewhere, Sutherland hung on to third spot with a 1-1 draw away to Marconi, but they too are under pressure; defending champions Blacktown City, finishing the season impressively, notched another three points with a 2-0 win at Rockdale and are now within only two points of the men from down south. Bonnyrigg, the other team in the top five, had to be content with a 2-2 draw away to the South Coast Wolves, a last-gasp goal from star striker Brad Boardman saving them from defeat. Details of that one can be found below.

A 2-0 win for APIA over Manly United at Cromer Park ended the Italian-backed club's nightmare run and lifted them off the foot of the table. In the wooden spoon position now are Parramatta, who lost 4-1 to a Bankstown side eager to erase the memory of their fearful drubbing at the hands of A-League club Newcastle in a midweek friendly.

South Coast Wolves 2-2 Bonnyrigg White Eagles
Pre-season favourites the Bonnyrigg White Eagles needed a goal at the last gasp to avoid an embarrassing loss to the struggling Wolves, for whom returned star Saso Petrovski again provided moments of class.

The former Sydney FC and Newcastle Jets striker carried on where he left off against Parramatta in midweek with a stinging left-footed shot out of nowhere on 10 minutes. Bonnyrigg keeper Andrew Bazi did well to punch the effort clear.

At the other end, a well-flighted free kick from Jared Lum reached Ben Spruce by the left-hand upright, and the former Sutherland man placed his header just wide of goal.

Set-pieces continued to provide the best opportunities, as first Alex Mansueto for



QLD

Jarrod Ellis

With the regular season over and the Sunshine Coast Fire having been crowned league Premiers the Hyundai QSL moved on to the finals Championship on the weekend.

The format of the finals is changed from previous seasons and sees the first-placed team playing the runners-up in a home and away semi-final, with the winners going straight into the Grand Final. Third plays sixth, and fourth plays fifth, in sudden-death games with the higher-placed team having hosting rights.

The winners of the sudden-death games will then go on to play each other in a further knock-out fixture next weekend, with the winners progressing to a semi-final against the losers of the Fire v Strikers matchup. Whoever survives that preliminary final will then be the second team into the Grand Final.

That leaves the winner of the Strikers v Fire match with a valuable week of rest and after Saturday's match it's Brisbane who hold the upper hand, triumphing 2-1 thanks to an injury time winner from Ben Griffin.

In a game of very few genuine scoring chances all three goals came from brilliantly executed free kicks in the second half, but Strikers centre-half Griffin had the final say and sent the home team's passionate supporters into delirium with his 92nd minute strike.

The first half was a tight and tense affair as one would expect with a semi-final fixture, Sunshine Coast's victory over Brisbane a week earlier to claim the League Premiership no doubt played its part in affecting some of the heavy challenges that came in as both sides sought to gain the upper hand.

Brisbane dominated efforts on goal for

UNITED SINK LEADERS IN SUMMIT CLASH



Luke Roodenburg lets out a roar after scoring in Blacktown's 2-0 against Rockdale City. Photo: CARLOS FURTADO/ COURTESY FNSW

the hosts, then Brad Boardman for the visitors, went agonizingly close to scoring. Boardman was a constant threat for Bonnyrigg, and a fumble by Wolves keeper Brody Crane was pounced upon by the big frontman on 29 minutes, only for the hosts' custodian to redeem himself with a brave close-range save.

The Wolves' striking pairing of Petrovski and Mark Picciolini was causing the Bonnyrigg backline plenty of concern, and on 41 minutes the pressure finally told. Neat footwork from Picciolini drew a clear foul from Michael Robinson, and referee Alex Glasgow had no hesitation in pointing to the spot. Petrovski buried the penalty low

into the corner with his usual aplomb.

The game became wonderfully lively after the restart, and Picciolini might have put the hosts further in front when a fine move ended with John Martinoski crossing from the right; Picciolini, however, failed to get enough contact on his header to trouble Bazi.

Striker Alex Canak was providing some shrewd off-the-ball movement for the visitors, and his far-post volley was cleared off the line just after the hour. Soon afterwards, with substitute Blake Powell also giving the Wolves defence some headaches, the expected blow fell.

From a set-piece, Powell's deft header back into the area fell to former Leeds



United midfielder Jamie McMaster, who slotted the ball home smartly from just a few yards out.

Crane was kept busy in the succeeding minutes as Bonnyrigg increased the pressure. Saving well from Spruce on 74 minutes, he then had to take desperate action to prevent McMaster finding an empty net for his second, after temporarily becoming caught in no-man's land.

Again, it was home-town hero Petrovski who revived the hosts' spirits, crashing a free kick against the post with twelve minutes to play. Picciolini, too, almost found a way through the Bonnyrigg defence with an enterprising run a few minutes later.

On 87 minutes it looked like the hosts

had secured a famous victory. Once again, a free kick was the origin of the goal; the loose clearance was collected by Jacob Timpano at the far post, and his prod back into the centre was driven firmly into the back of the net by fellow defender Dave Abel.

Abel came very close to making things sure just a minute later, smashing a long-range drive against Bazi's upright. But last season's grand finalists grasped a point at the death thanks to the ever-determined Boardman, who snapped up a smart cut-back from Nathan Elasi to keep Bonnyrigg within striking distance of a top-three finish.

QAS and Gold Coast Eliminated



The victorious FNQ Bulls after demolishing QAS by a convincing 4-0. Photo: JIM HATCHMAN

the opening quarter of the match, Sunshine Coast not testing Brendan White until the 27th minute.

However it was the visitors who came closest to scoring in the opening forty-five, Jason Hicks denied from six-yards out only by a miraculous reaction save from White.

The two sides returned for the second half with renewed vigor and the Strikers efforts were rewarded twelve minutes after the break when Sean Burke leapt above the Fire defence to power a Chay Hews free kick into the net.

With only a 1-0 lead and still over half and hour to go there was still plenty of work to do for Brisbane as the visitors pressed for an equalizer and a valuable away goal.

As full time approached it appeared as though Sunshine Coast would be unable to find a way past an impressive defensive effort from Brisbane, but Fire skipper Tyson Holmes stepped up when the pressure was on and leveled the match for his team.

After having been brought down heavily outside the area Holmes then took the

resultant free kick and hit a perfect shot that left the wall completely ineffective and evaded a diving White.

With only nine minutes or regulation time remaining the match was set for a grandstand finish and it got it when Ben Griffin headed home a Brisbane free kick to seal an extremely valuable 2-1 win.

The elimination finals provided no such late drama as both matches were decided well before the final whistle, surprisingly considering the relative tightness of the 2011 QSL.



Jack Bladen (QAS) flies high with a header. Photo: JIM HATCHMAN

Third-placed Whitsunday Miners hosted sixth-placed Gold Coast Stars in Mackay, the home side having beaten the Stars twice already this season.

A finals setting proved no difference on this occasion as once again the Miners prevailed, a comfortable 3-1 win secured in the 51st minute by a strike from Troy Mundy.

The first half saw considerable drama, three goals arriving in the first twenty-six minutes but the Miners never relinquished the lead and in truth took a deserved victory.

NSW Results
NSW PREMIER LEAGUE: ROUND 19: FIRST GRADE: South Coast Wolves 2 (Saso Petrovski 14m David Abel 87m) Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 (Jamie McMaster 63m Bradley Boardman 92m), : Sydney Olympic FC 2 (Chris Triantis 13m Phillip Makrys 41m pen) Sydney United 4 (Michael Cindric 1m Steven Hayes 25/30m Luka Glavas 72m), Bankstown City 4 (Nathan Risteovski 23m Hussen Salameh 54m Christopher Bedzo 63m S Mitchell 91m) Parramatta Eagles 1 (Peter Crevani 90m), Marconi Stallions 1 (Gosue Sama 38m) Sutherland Sharks 1 (Panagiotis Nikas 79m), Rockdale City Suns 0 Blacktown City FC (Milorad Simonovic 72m Luke Roodenburg 84m Manly United FC 0 APIA Tigers 2 (Christopher James 54m Robert Younis 89m).
GRADE 20: South Coast Wolves 1 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2, Sydney Olympic FC 2 Sydney United 2, Bankstown City 2 Parramatta Eagles 7, Marconi Stallions 2 Sutherland Sharks 0, Rockdale City Suns 1 Blacktown City FC 2, Manly United FC 5 APIA Tigers 0.
RESCHEDULED GAMES: ROUND 13: FIRST GRADE: Parramatta Eagles 1 (Daniel Fogarty 63m) South Coast Wolves 2 (Mark Picciolini 36m Saso Petrovski 65m).
Next Round
Bonnyrigg WE vs Blacktown City <i>Bonnyrigg Sports Club 7PM Sat 13/Aug</i>
Parramatta FC vs Sydney United <i>Melita Stadium 7:00 PM Sat 13/Aug</i>
Sutherland Sharks vs Rockdale City- <i>Seymour Shaw Park 7:00 PM Sat 13/Aug</i>
Sydney Olympic vs Marconi Stallions <i>Belmore Sports Grnd 3:00 PM Sun 14/Aug</i>
South Coast Wolves vs Manly United <i>John Crehan Park 3:00 PM Sun 14/Aug</i>
APIA Leichhardt vs Bankstown City <i>Lambert Park 3:00 PM Sun 14/Aug</i>

Standings							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD
Sydney Olympic	18	12	4	2	34	19	15
Sydney United	18	10	3	5	33	19	14
Sutherland Sharks	18	9	4	5	25	19	6
Blacktown City FC	18	9	6	3	30	17	13
Bonnyrigg WE	18	7	3	8	26	18	8
Manly United FC	18	5	6	7	25	33	-8
Marconi Stallions	18	5	7	6	21	20	1
Rockdale City	18	6	9	3	19	26	-7
Bankstown City	18	6	9	3	26	36	-10
0 South Coast	18	6	10	2	27	33	-6
1 APIA Leichhardt	18	4	10	4	20	32	-12
2 Parramatta FC	18	4	12	2	17	31	-14

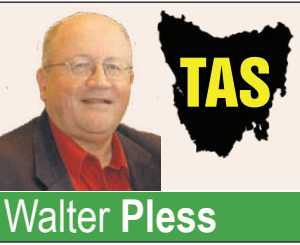
QSL Finals Series Results
Brisbane Strikers 2 (Burke 57', Griffin 92') v Sunshine Coast FC 1 (Holmes 81')
FNQ Bulls 4 (Rusch 13' 39', Cater 18', McGrath 27') v Queensland Academy of Sport 0
Whitsunday Miners 3 (White 9', Bradford 26' (p), Mundy 51') v Gold Coast Stars 1 (McCormick 11')
Queensland State Youth League Gold Coast 19s 0 v South West Queensland 19s 1 (Wylie 25)
QSL Finals Series
Sunshine Coast FC v Brisbane Strikers (2ND LEG) <i>(Winner advances to the Grand Final. Loser proceeds to the Preliminary Final)</i>
Whitsunday Miners v FNQ Bulls <i>(Winner advances to the Preliminary Final. Loser is eliminated)</i>

The final match of the weekend was the elimination final between FNQ Bulls and QAS, fourth versus fifth, the Bulls having only just finished above QAS on the table after a late season run saw them surge up the standings.

The Bulls went on a similar run last season but were denied in the finals by their closest rivals NQ Razorbacks, a result that has driven the club onward in 2011. That determination came to the fore on Saturday night as the Bulls destroyed a QAS side making their first finals appearance 4-0.

It was all over after the first half when goals from Joe Rusch, Steven Cater and Peter McGrath gave FNQ a four goal advantage and put paid to any hopes of the talented youngsters at QAS breaking further ground for the youth academy. The results of the elimination finals have setup a mouthwatering clash between Whitsunday Miners and FNQ Bulls next weekend, both sides looking capable of challenging the "Big Two" of Brisbane and Sunshine Coast should they meet in the elimination semi-final in two weeks.

Northern Premier League title to go to the wire



Third-placed Northern Rangers blew the Forestry Tasmania Northern Premier League title race wide open after they beat leaders Devonport City 3-2 at home at the NTCA Ground on Saturday.

The win dropped Devonport City to third on 36 points, while Northern Rangers are now second and level on 37 points with new leaders Prospect Knights, who scored a comfortable 4-0 win over Launceston City at Prospect Park.

Prospect Knights have a much better goal-difference than Rangers.

There is one round of matches remaining and so the destination of the title will be decided on the final day of the league season. It cannot get more exciting than that.

Prospect Knights entertain Devonport City at Prospect Park on Saturday, 20 August, while reigning champions Northern Rangers have an easier task when they host fourth-placed Ulverstone at the NTCA Ground on the same day.

Rangers led Devonport 2-0 at the interval. Todd Hingston stroked home the first after his header from Gabriel Tams's cross initially came back off the woodwork, while Pat Lanau-Atkinson netted the second with an easy tap in at the far post from Scott Murray's cross.

Chris McKenna pulled a goal back for Devonport with a header after the break, but Hingston restored Rangers' two-goal buffer with a penalty after a foul on Andrew Nicholson.

Daniel McGinn hit a second for Devonport with 5 minutes remaining, but the visitors were unable to find an equaliser and slumped from first to third spot. They must now beat Prospect Knights



Football Federation Tasmania CEO John Boulous presents the league trophy to a mud-splattered South Hobart team in their final home game of the season.Photo: WALTER PLESS

away next week and hope that Ulverstone can topple or draw with Rangers if they are to clinch the title.

Fourth-placed Ulverstone suffered a disappointing 1-0 loss at home against Riverside Olympic, while bottom-side Launceston United came awfully close to collecting their first point of the season when they lost narrowly to Burnie United 5-4 at home at Birch Avenue.

It's all over in the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League, of course, with South Hobart having retained their title weeks ago.

They were presented with the trophy by Football Federation Tasmania CEO John Boulous after their 3-1 win over relegated Beachside at a swampy South Hobart ground on Saturday afternoon.

In the very heavy conditions, South Hobart took the lead in the 25th minute when Liam Scott put Jonathon Lo away on the

right and his cross was hammered home off the underside of the bar by youngster Dylan Postma.

Doctors Tom Roach and Jonathon Lo then completed the operation in the second half for the league champions.

Roach headed the second 11 minutes after the interval, while Lo hit home an easy third when Beachside keeper Michael Soszynski could only parry Scott's shot and the ball stuck in the mud to present Lo with an open goal. He ripped off his shirt in celebration and collected a yellow card for his troubles.

In the final minute, a through-ball by John Rogers slipped under the body of South Hobart goalkeeper Sam Kruijver, enabling substitute Ricki Eaves to gain possession. His first shot stuck in the mud, but he was the first to react and scored at his second attempt to make it 3-1.

South missed several more chances, including one from close range when Brayden Mann hit Soszynski rather than the net.

On Friday night at KGV Park, sixth-placed Glenorchy Knights beat fourth-placed New Town Eagles 3-1. It was Eagles' first loss in seven games and their hold on fourth place and a berth in the finals is looking a little bit tenuous now.

Fifth-placed Kingborough Lions United are just 3 points adrift of Eagles and have a game in hand.

Perennial scorer Adam McKeown fired Eagles into an 11th-minute lead, but Jacob Huigsloot equalised with a penalty in the 25th minute after a foul on Corey Smith by David Cox.

Andrew Robb put the Knights in front in the 31st minute following good work on the right by Smith and Brendan Garth, while Matthew Nowicki added a third for

Next Round
Saturday 13th August 2011 Statewide Lakoseljac Cup Final South Hobart v Olympia FC Warriors KGV Park 06:30 PM
Southern Premier League Saturday 20th August 2011 Clarence United v New Town Eagles Wentworth Park 2 02:30 PM
Kingborough Lions v Glenorchy Knights Lightwood Park 02:30 PM
Olympia FC v South Hobart FC Warrior Park 02:30 PM
Beachside FC v Tilford Zebras Sandown Park 1 02:30 PM
Northern Premier League Saturday 20th August 2011 Northern Rangers v Ulverstone NTCA 02:30 PM
Prospect Knights v Devonport City Prospect Park 02:30 PM
Launceston United v Somerset Birch Avenue 02:30 PM
Burnie United v Riverside Olympic Montello 02:30 PM
Launceston City has the Bye.

the Knights in the 57th minute. Eagles had goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford sent off with 17 minutes remaining after he directed foul and abusive language at an opponent. Central-defender Adam Bates took over in goal and made a couple of splendid saves as Knights sought to press home their advantage against ten men, but without success.

On Saturday night, Clarence United consolidated their third spot on the ladder with an amazing 3-2 win over second-last Olympia Warriors at Wentworth Park, three of the goals coming in the eight minutes of stoppage time.

Melbourne fly-in Jake Van Der Mey gave Olympia a 1-0 lead at the interval before a penalty by Clarence's Korean import Kyu Jub Kim made it 1-1 in the 62nd minute.

A desperately unlucky Van Der Mey then thumped a header against a post as Clarence reeled.

Omar Shabaneh hit a magnificent goal for Olympia in the 90th minute to give

Tasmania Results
Southern Premier League Glenorchy Knights 3 New Town Eagles 1 South Hobart FC 3 Beachside FC 1 Clarence United 3 Olympia FC 2 Tilford Zebras 3 Kingborough Lions 2
Northern Premier League Ulverstone 0 Riverside Olympic 1 Launceston United 4 Burnie United 5 Northern Rangers 3 Devonport City 2 Prospect Knights 4 Launceston City 0

Northern Division								
		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Prospect Knights		15	12	1	2	45	12	37
Northern Rangers		15	12	1	2	42	17	37
Devonport City		15	12	0	3	58	22	36
Ulverstone		15	7	1	7	29	26	22
Somerset		15	6	0	9	29	39	18
Riverside Olympic		15	5	2	8	22	36	17
Launceston City		16	4	4	8	26	33	16
Burnie United		15	5	1	9	30	40	16
Launceston United		15	0	0	15	23	78	0

Southern Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	20	16	3	1	76	19	51
Tilford Zebras	19	9	7	3	58	36	34
Clarence United	20	9	7	4	39	42	34
New Town Eagles	20	7	8	5	39	37	29
Kingborough Lions	19	8	2	9	35	43	26
Glenorchy Knights	20	5	5	10	30	46	20
Olympia Warriors	20	4	4	12	31	52	16
Beachside	20	1	4	15	20	53	7

Olympia a 2-1 lead, but the visitors' hopes were dashed as Clarence netted in the 96th minute through another Korean import, Jae Ho Lee, and in the 98th minute through substitute William Malovnekv to make it 3-2 for the home side.

Olympia's other Melbourne fly-in, Joshua Colosimo, was knocked out in the scramble for the winning goal after colliding with his own keeper. He received treatment on the pitch before being stretchered off and an ambulance was called as the player appeared to have a rib injury and was having trouble breathing.

That was the final action of the match and Clarence are now level on 34 points with second-placed Tilford Zebras, who have a game in hand.



A dominant MetroStars were too good for ten-man Raiders, running out 4-0 winners in Round 17 of the Super League at TK Shutter Reserve on Saturday.

Adam van Dommele opened the scoring after just three minutes and by the twelfth minute Metro were two goals to the good as Scott Tunbridge scored. Ben Tarabar was sent-off midway through the second half as Jackson Groves and then Michael Matricciani rounded off the scoring.

The result means MetroStars remain a point behind Adelaide City in the race to end the home and away season as minor premiers.

MetroStars Coach David Terminello was happy with the performance but warns going into the finals series there is always room for improvement.

"Overall I was pleased with the performance," Terminello noted.

"We are scoring goals early which helps us and puts the other team on the back foot. We've been sharing the goals around which means the pressure is not on just one or two, but we always need to be at our best. There is room for improvement."

Terminello did admit he has an eye on the finals.

"We will approach next week's game as normal but I am looking ahead to the finals. We will see how we go with nursing players with niggling injuries through next week."

MetroStars had the perfect opening as Francesco Monterosso's cross was met by a rasping van Dommele volley from just inside the penalty area, leaving Raiders goalkeeper Dan Atkins with no chance.

Four-star Metrostars crush Raiders



Modbury's Adrian Giacomelli let's one rip while Jon Fusco turns the other cheek. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

The lead was increased nine minutes later when Tunbridge was played through on a Metro counter-attack and with only Atkins to beat he coolly slotted the ball past the shot-stopper.

Raiders task was made increasingly difficult in the 67th minute as Tarabar was given his marching orders for a foul on van Dommele.

Just five minutes later and Metro put the game beyond Raiders reach with Groves meeting a cross with a downward header which evaded Atkins.

MetroStars put the icing on the cake nine minutes from time as ex-Adelaide United striker Matricciani made no mistake when one-on-one with Atkins.

The visitor's best chance of the second half fell to substitute Mario Marcinko, who struck the crossbar.

Best on ground for MetroStars were Steven Grelli, Tunbridge and

Monterosso. For Raiders, Matthew Stokes, Adam Harris and Captain Mimi Saric gathered votes for their performance.

Adelaide City got back to their dominant best with a comfortable 4-0 victory over Western Strikers at Carnegie Reserve on Saturday.

Jono Negus scored a goal in each half and was joined on the scoresheet by Ricardo Da Silva and Nicky Orr.

Best for Strikers were Ermias Haile, Chahine Noujaim and Tomas Maricic. For Adelaide City, Eli Vlassis, Jace Cummins and Jordan D'Arise were the standout performers.

Adelaide Galaxy secured their finals position with a 3-0 win over bottom-placed Modbury at Con Makris Park on Saturday.

Jake Markham put the hosts into a half-time lead and Tom Briscoe added a second half brace to secure the points for Galaxy.



Modbury's Steve Day keeps the ball out from under Adelaide Galaxy's Kodi Madeley. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

Adam Lecornu, Briscoe and John Fusco were Galaxy's top players. For the defeated Jets, Dan Elekwachi, Chris Dean and Matt Kelly had a solid match.

Adelaide Blue Eagles were held to a 0-0 draw by struggling Croydon at Marden Sports Complex on Saturday.

The draw means Blue Eagles will finish the minor round third, while the Kings survival hopes will go down to the final round of the season.

Best on ground for Blue Eagles was Fortunato Filletti, who was ably assisted by Chris Atsikbasis and Kym Harris. Croydon's top three players were Ermias Tekle, Lewis May and Captain Michael Papacharalambous.

Campbelltown secured their Super League status for next year with a come-from-behind win against Para Hills at Steve Woodcock Sports

This Week
Adelaide City vs Croydon Adelaide City Park 3:00 PM Sat 13/Aug
Modbury vs Western Strikers Jet Park 3:00 PM Sat 13/Aug
Campbelltown vs Adelaide Blue Eagles Steve Woodcock Sports Centre 3PM Sat 13/Aug
Metro Stars vs Adelaide Galaxy TK Shutter Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 13/Aug
Para Hills vs Raiders The Paddocks 3:00 PM Sat 13/Aug

Centre on Saturday. Alex Mullen put the visitors ahead but Stephen Maio replied with just under twenty minutes remaining. An own goal three minutes from the end gave Campbelltown the points.

Captain Michael D'Aloisio was Campbelltown's best player, with Matthew Deegan and Nicholas Green also picking up votes.

FFSA Results
DEVINE SUPER LEAGUE Round 17 Results
Western Strikers 0 v Adelaide City 4 (Jono Negus 2, Ricardo Da Silva, Nicky Orr) (HT 0-2) Best – Western Strikers: Ermias Haile, Chahine Noujaim, Tomas Maricic; Adelaide City: Eli Vlassis, Jace Cummins, Jordan D'Arise, Reserves – Western Strikers 0 v Adelaide City 1 U19 – Western Strikers 1 v Adelaide City 5

Adelaide Galaxy 3 (Tom Briscoe 2, Jake Markham) v Modbury 0 (HT 1-0) Best – Adelaide Galaxy: Adam Lecornu, Tom Briscoe, John Fusco, Modbury: Dan Elekwachi, Chris Dean, Matt Kelly, Reserves – Adelaide Galaxy 5 v Modbury 2 U19 – Adelaide Galaxy 2 v Modbury 1

Adelaide Blue Eagles 0 v Croydon 0 (HT 0-0) Best – Adelaide Blue Eagles: Fortunato Filletti, Chris Atsikbasis, Kym Harris; Croydon: Ermias Tekle, Lewis May, Michael Papacharalambous Reserves – Adelaide Blue Eagles 0 v Croydon 3 U19 – Adelaide Blue Eagles 3 v Croydon 2
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MetroStars 4 (Adam van Dommele, Michael Matricciani, Scott Tunbridge, Jason Groves) v Raiders 0 (HT 2-0) Best – MetroStars: Steven Grelli, Scott Tunbridge, Francesco Monterosso; Raiders: Matthew Stokes, Adam Harris, Mimi Saric Reserves – MetroStars 3 v Raiders 0 U19 – MetroStars 3 v Raiders 0
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Campbelltown City 2 (Stephen Maio, TOG) v Para Hills 1 (Alex Mullen) (HT 0-1) Best – Campbelltown City: Michael D'Aloisio, Mathew Deegan, Nicholas Green; Para Hills: not provided Reserves – Campbelltown City 0 v Para Hills 3 U19 – Campbelltown City 0 v Para Hills 3
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Standings								
	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	Gd	Pts
Adelaide City	17	13	3	1	45	14	31	42
Metro Stars	17	13	2	2	47	12	35	41
Adelaide BE	17	9	3	5	22	19	3	30
Western Strikers	17	8	2	7	22	19	3	26
Adelaide Galaxy	17	7	4	6	25	24	1	25
Campbelltown	17	6	3	8	17	20	-3	21
Raiders	17	4	3	10	20	30	-10	15
Croydon	17	3	5	9	10	25	-15	14
Para Hills	17	3	4	10	12	27	-15	13
Modbury	17	3	3	11	18	49	-31	12

Armadale boost survival hopes



Armadale's hopes of avoiding relegation from the WA Premier League received a tremendous boost as they recorded a shock 4-1 away victory against Perth SC in round 23 action.

Victory put Armadale four points clear of the two-team drop zone ahead of the vital relegation battle between Cockburn City and Mandurah City, which was played on Sunday. Armadale took control of the game early through first half goals to Steve McDonald and James Robinson, but when Perth's Greg Sharland scored in the 79th minute to make the score 2-1, it looked as if the visitors were in danger of throwing away the three points. But former Oldham Athletic striker Matt Barlow netted the sealer in the 89th minute, before Ali Parades scored a minute later to complete the 4-1 victory. The result was second-placed Perth's third-consecutive defeat and means it is yet to ensure its place in the finals.

Bayswater City moved into finals contention thanks to its 5-1 thrashing of fellow top-five aspirants Floreat Athena. With two games left to play, City is outside the top five only on goal difference, with Floreat two points further back, but it has an extra game remaining. Bayswater's unbeaten run was extended to eight games with the victory, which was set up by two goals apiece to Gustavo Marulanda and John Kearney, who produced a man-of-the match performance. City dominated the first half and jumped out to a 3-0 lead, before their control continued after the break and they comfortably wrapped up the three points. The only bright spot for Floreat was a stunning strike from James Isaia, late in the game, but it was little more than a consolation. Sorrento consolidated its spot in the top five thanks to a thumping 4-0 victory over ECU Joondalup, whose finals hopes are officially over following that result. Todd Harnwell got things started early for the Gulls, with his first minute strike giving them the lead before a Love penalty in the 58th minute and a pair of goals to Gurovski wrapped up the three points. Victory extended Sorrento's unbeaten run to three games and left ECU with just one win from



Sorrento defender Jared Love gets a shot in on goal despite ECU Joondalup midfielder John Higgins' tackle. Photo: PETER SIMCOX

its past six games as it slumped to ninth spot. Inglewood United and Western Knights both missed out on the chance to take a big step towards ensuring their spot in the finals as they played out a 1-1 draw. Victory for the Knights would have seen them move to equal second, while an Inglewood win would have given it a two-point gap over sixth-placed Bayswater.

But the draw means Inglewood is in the top five on goal difference and the Knights are only four points clear of the chasing pack. Jake Geddes put United ahead midway through the first half but Johnny Mirco levelled the scores in the 56th minute and neither side could pinch a winner. And Premiers Balcatta recorded a 3-1 victory over the NTC, thanks to Steve Burton's brace

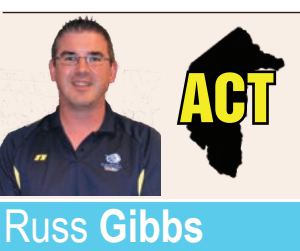
and an Ashley Rosindale goal. In Division One action, Shamrock Rovers moved to the top of the table after a 3-2 victory against bottom side Canning City, previous leaders Bunbury Forum Force suffered a 3-2 loss to Wanneroo City, Fremantle and fellow strugglers Dianella played out a 3-3 draw, Forrestfield and Morley-Windmills drew 2-2 and Swan United thrashed Rockingham 5-0.

All Flags WA Results	
First Team Inglewood United 1(Geddes 29,) Western Knights 1(J.Mirco 56.); Perth SC 1 (Sharland 79,) Armadale 4 (McDonald 20, J.Robinson 40p, Barlow 89, Paredes 90.); ECU Joondalup 0 Sorrento 4 (T.Harnwell 1, Gurovski 42, 91, Love 58p.); Bayswater City 5 (Marulanda 9, 40, Knight 46, Kearney 66, 70,) Floreat Athena 1(Isaia 83.); Balcatta 3 (Burton 6, 31, Rosendale 45,) NTC 1(Vittiglia 43.); Mandurah City 1 (Insurralde 34,) Cockburn City 0.	
Reserves Inglewood United 0 Western Knights 2; Perth SC 4 Armadale 2; ECU Joondalup 2 Sorrento 1; Bayswater City 3 Floreat Athena 1; Balcatta 1 NTC 4; Mandurah City Cockburn City ;	
Under 18's Inglewood United 1 Western Knights 3; Perth SC 2 Armadale 0; ECU Joondalup 2 Sorrento 0; Bayswater City 3 Floreat Athena 3; Balcatta 2 NTC 2; Mandurah City Cockburn City ;	

Next Round - State League Cup	
Cockburn City v Inglewood United <i>Dalmatinac Park 3:00 PM Sat 13/Aug</i>	
Floreat Athena FC v ECU Joondalup <i>E&D Litis Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 13/Aug</i>	
Stirling Lions v NTC <i>Macedonia Park 3:00 PM Sat 13/Aug</i>	
Western Knights v Bayswater City <i>Nash Field 3:00 PM Sat 13/Aug</i>	
Sorrento FC v Armadale SC <i>Percy Doyle Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 13/Aug</i>	
Balcatta SC v Perth SC <i>Grindelford Reserve 3:00 PM Sun 14/Aug</i>	
BYE v Mandurah City	

All Flags WA Premier League	
	P W D L For Ag GD Pts
1 Balcatta	20 17 0 3 52 16 36 51
2 Perth SC	19 11 1 7 35 29 6 34
3 Sorrento	19 9 5 5 30 23 7 32
4 Western Knights	19 9 5 5 31 27 4 32
5 Bayswater City	21 7 8 6 42 40 2 29
6 Inglewood United	18 8 4 6 39 30 9 28
7 Stirling Lions	20 8 3 9 37 37 0 27
8 Floreat Athena	19 7 5 7 34 32 2 26
9 Armadale	19 7 2 10 37 38 -1 23
10 ECU Joondalup	21 7 2 12 24 42 -18 23
11 Mandurah City	21 5 4 12 20 31 -11 19
12 Cockburn City	19 3 2 14 23 48 -25 11

Canberra FC come from behind in nine-goal thriller



Canberra FC kept alive their hopes of retaining the League Championship by arresting their recent slump in form winning one of the games of this, or any other, season 5-4 against Woden Valley under the floodlights at Deakin Stadium.

In a game that had everything it was the visitors who went in front after only two minutes when Alex Oloriegbe found some space on the left flank before cutting inside two challenges and finishing with aplomb. Two goals inside four minutes had Canberra FC in front by the 16 minute mark when firstly Paul Ivanic slotted in from close range before Adam Spaleta tried his luck from distance, his shot ricocheting high into the night sky, before



James Perry (Canberra City) slides to win the ball from Jair Wilk (Cooma) Photo: NICK GUOTH

dropping over Jack Pettit who tried his best but couldn't prevent the ball from crossing the line failing to claw it back in time. Incredibly Woden were level fifteen minutes later when Daniel Sparrow swung over a brilliant free-kick that was glanced past Ben Klug by Irishman Sean Murphy for his first goal at this level to send the teams in at the break at 2-2. It was Woden who appeared to have taken

a march on proceedings when they netted twice after the resumption of play with Paul Gagetti poking home his sixth goal of the season from almost on the goal line and then Murphy bundling a rebound into the net after Oloriegbe had tested Klug from a free-kick. With their season apparently slipping away the champions suddenly found an extra gear. John Glass slid in a rebound after Ian Graham had



Matt Valeri (Belconnen) gets airborne to challenge for the ball with Jakob Williams (Olympic). Photo: NICK GUOTH

seen his effort blocked by Pettit to bring the home team back into the match setting up a grandstand finale. In what could turn out to be a defining sixty seconds of the season Canberra FC not only drew level, but found the requisite strength to go in front. Ivanic levelled the scores at 4-4 stroking home his sixteenth of the season after wonderful approach play by Josip Jadric and Yanes glanced in an Adam Spaleta cross

to send Deakin Stadium into bedlam. Woden still had time to fight back and almost snatched a point their performance warranted in stoppage time when Matt Kocic hit a shot from the angle that crashed back off the bar and to safety but it wasn't to be for a gallant beaten side.

ACT Results	
Canberra City 0 Woden Valley 0	
Cooma Tigers 3 (Iain Elliott 58', Serdan Bircan 72', Alex Castro 74') Canberra FC 2 (Josip Jadric 17', Ian Graham 64')	
Canberra Olympic 4 (James McLachlan (own goal) 10', Mohsen Ravanparsa 66', Robbie Shroder 73', Milan Popovich 81') Monaro Panthers 0	
Belconnen United 4 (Danny Macor 21', Dustin Wells 27' (pen), 30' (pen), 88') Tuggeranong United 0	

Next Round	
Belconnen United v Goulburn Strikers McKellar Park 4:00 PM Sat 13/Aug	
Canberra FC v Monaro Deakin Stadium 3:00 PM Sun 14/Aug	
Cooma SC v TUFC Nijong Oval 3:00 PM Sun 14/Aug	
BYE v Canberra City	

ACT Standings	
	P W D L For Ag GD Pts
1 Canberra FC	13 11 0 0 2 68 20 48 33
2 Canberra Olympic	13 10 0 2 1 49 15 34 32
3 Belconnen United	13 7 0 2 4 47 27 20 23
4 Canberra City	13 6 0 3 4 44 19 25 21
5 Woden Valley	13 4 0 4 5 45 27 18 16
6 Cooma SC	12 4 0 1 7 26 35 -9 13
7 Monaro	13 3 0 3 7 28 29 -1 12
8 TUFC	13 3 0 3 7 24 34 -10 12
9 Goulburn Strikers	13 0 0 0 13 6 131 -125 0

Leading Scorers	
24 Dustin WELLS (Belconnen United)	
16 Mark SHIELDS (Monaro Panthers)	
14 Misko NAUMOSKI (Canberra City), Paul IVANIC (Canberra FC)	
13 Alex OLORIEGBE (Woden Valley)	
12 Domenic GIAMPAOLO (Canberra Olympic), Victor YANES (Canberra FC)	

Alvaro
Rodriguez's

Planet Football
Surinam

NAME: Surinam
CAPITAL: Paramaribo
POPULATION: (2011 approx.) 491,989
CONFEDERATION: CONCACAF
FIFA WORLD RANKING: 117th

WHO ARE YA?
The Republic of Surinam is a former Dutch colony (independent since 1975) located on the northern coast of South America. Despite its geographical location it is a member of CONCACAF, not CONMEBOL. What it does have in common with South America however is an unbridled passion for the world game.

SO WHAT YOU DONE?
Well, *technically* speaking it has given the world Patrick Kluivert, Clarence Seedorf, Edgar Davids, Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, Ruud Gullit, Ryan Babel and Frank Rijkaard among others...

BUT HANG ON, THEY'RE DUTCH?
Yes, but all are of Surinamese descent and fiercely proud of their origins. In fact Kluivert's dad played for the Surinamese national team. Despite never having qualified for the World Cup, at club level the country boasts a two-time CONCACAF Champions Cup (now League) winner in SV Transvaal, whose victories came in 1973 and 1981.

BIG CLUBS
As mentioned, SV Transvaal – although the amusingly-named SV Robinhood would dispute that with 23 league titles and 10 cup wins...

REP YOUR COLORS
The national team is nicknamed The Suriboys and currently play in a predominantly-white strip with the national flag as a stylised sash. The away strip is the same but with dark green in



Gullit and his famous dreadlocks and where it all began.

status as Dutch citizens. Considering the Suriboys have just been drawn in a second-round World Cup qualifying group where their only significant opposition is El Salvador, with a passage to a semi-final group featuring Mexico and Costa Rica in the wings, they will certainly need all the help they can get. In any case, the future of football in Surinam looks considerably brighter than it has in a long time.

AL'S PARTING SHOTS
WHAT'S HOT: That the football seasons are kicking off soon! Will El Nino finally break his duck for Chelsea, will Andre Villas-Boas be compared to Charlie Pickering and can Mathew Leckie light up the Bundesliga? I for one can't wait.
WHAT'S NOT: The 'mainstream' media completely ignoring Cobram Victory's dream run in the Mirabella Cup. Aussies supposedly love to see an underdog defy the odds, and that is exactly what the country-town side did. I suppose if their local footy team somehow knocked off Port Melbourne or Casey Scorpions they might care, but all the same bad form. Show the world game more love, VIC media!!!

WAG OF THE WEEK



Bianca Kajlich Age: 34
Scored with Landon Donovan (LA Galaxy)

Couch Potato Dept.
* ALL TIMES ARE AEST

SBS

SBS ONE
Monday August 8th
04:30 PM Futbol Mundial
11:30 PM The World Game

Sunday August 14th
11:00 AM Les Murray's Football Feature
-
12:00 PM Futbol Mundia
04:00 PM Indigenous Football Festival 2011 - Held in Alice Springs this year, the festival brings together Indigenous youth from all over Australia to play football in an organised environment with the focus being on fun and participation. The festival includes a football tournament football for both male and female teams, coaching clinics and team building activities

Monday August 15th
05:45 AM Spanish Supercup: Real Madrid v Barcelona - 1st Leg. **Live from the Bernabéu Stadium, Madrid, Spain.**

3i tv now!

The Futbol Town Show
Every Tuesday 7pm

Extra Time Magazine Show
Every Tuesday 7.30pm

SMFC TV
Channel 31
Every Wed 7pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday 10.30am

SBS TWO
Monday August 8th
09:30 PM The World Game

Thursday August 11th
12:25 AM Film: Offside - Five young women go to extraordinary lengths to watch Iran's 2006 World Cup qualifier in a stadium where women have been banned. Filmed during the actual football game between Iran and Bahrain in 2005. (From Iran, in Farsi, English subtitles) (Comedy) (2006)

SETANTA SPORTS

Monday 8-Aug
Primera Division Opening Round Olimpio v Boca Juniors 7:10am **LIVE**
Bundesliga Opening Round Bayern Munich v Monchengladbach 9:15am 1st Airing
Eredivisie Opening Round De Graafschapp v Ajax 4:15pm 1st Airing

Tuesday 9-Aug
Bundesliga Opening Round Mainz v Leverkusen 2:45am 1st Airing

Thursday 11-Aug
International England v Netherlands 4:45am **LIVE**
Copa Sudamericana 2nd Stage 1st Leg Flamengo v Atletico Paranaense 10:45am **LIVE**

Saturday 13-Aug
Scottish Premier League Round 4 Inverness v Rangers 9:40pm **LIVE**
Scottish Premier League Round 4 Celtic v Dundee Utd 11:55pm **LIVE**

Sunday 14-Aug
Bundesliga Round 2 Monchengladbach v Stuttgart 2:25am **LIVE**
Ligue 1 Round 2 Rennes v PSG 4:55am **LIVE**
Ligue 1 Round 2 Valenciennes v Brest 7:00am 1st Airing
Eredivisie Round 2 PSV v RKC Waalwijk 8:45am 1st Airing
J-League Round 21 Vengalta Sendai v Kashima Antlers 10:30am 1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 2 Schalke v Cologne 5:30pm 1st Airing
Scottish Premier League Round 4 Kilmarnock v Hibernian 9:10pm **LIVE**

Monday 15-Aug
Bundesliga Round 2 Kaiserslautern v Augsburg 3:10am 1st Airing
Ligue 1 Round 2 Lille v Montpellier 4:55am **LIVE**
Bundesliga Round 2 Leverkusen v Werder Bremen 8:45am 1st Airing
Ligue 1 Round 2 Auxerre v Marseille 4:00pm 1st Airing

one

Tuesday 09th August
02:30 am Arsenal TV
05:30 am FA Cup Classics Newcastle United V Tottenham Hotspur 3rd Round Replay 99/00

Wednesday 10th August
05:30 am FA Cup Classics Middlesbrough V Chesterfield Semi Final 96/97

Thursday 11th August
02:00 am Bundesliga
04:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights

Friday 12th August
05:00 am 500 Great Goals
05:30 am FA Cup Classics Southampton V Tottenham Hotspur 5th Round Replay 94/95

Saturday 13th August
05:00 am 500 Great Goals
05:30 am FA Cup Classics Gillingham V Chelsea 4th Round 00/01

Sunday 14th August
05:30 am FA Cup Classics Chelsea V Liverpool
Semi Final 05/06

FOX SPORTS

INTERNATIONAL
Thursday Aug 11
Wales v Australia
4.30 am **LIVE**

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE LIVE
Mon Aug 8 Season Preview 8.30 pm
Sat Aug 13 Liverpool v Sunderland 11.53 pm
Sat Aug 13 Fulham v Aston Villa 11.53 pm
Viewers Choice
Sat Aug 13 QPR v Bolton 11.53 pm
Viewers Choice
Sat Aug 13 Tottenham v Everton 11.53 pm
Viewers Choice
Sat Aug 13 Wigan v Norwich 11.53 pm
Viewers Choice
Sun Aug 14 Newcastle v Arsenal 2.23 am
Sun Aug 14 Blackburn v Wolves 4.30 am
DELAY
Sun Aug 14 Stoke v Chelsea 10.23 pm
Mon Aug 15 West Brom v Man Utd 12.53 am
Tue Aug 16 Man City v Swansea 4.53 am

CARLING CUP LIVE
Wed Aug 10 Leeds v Bradford 4.30 am
Fri Aug 12 Sheffield Wed v Blackpool 4.00 am

SAXON SPORTS FRANKSTON

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Mirabella Cup Quarter-Finals Series kicks off!



Robert Di Fabio

The Mirabella Cup has been a riveting affair since its introduction in March; we've witnessed an array of exhilaration, drama and upsets all composed in the unique facet of cup football.

Teams have challenged and prospered, while others have envisaged their reverie come into fruition. Of note, Cobram Victory's memorable cup voyage saw the regional outfit prevail against highly fancied clubs and ultimately have the dream clash with former NSL champions and current VPL affiliate Melbourne Knights. Although their dream cup run was brought to halt, their inspiration captivated many throughout the Victorian football community and re-energized the under-dog tag within cup football.

Subsequent to a flurry of cup fixtures, the Mirabella Cup has truly reached the business end of the tournament.

With the Melbourne based A-League outfits- Victory and Heart exempt from participating under the duress of the FFA, the subsequent Quarter-Finals had to be modified due to the unforeseen circumstances. It was an unfortunate situation, as many football fans were vastly looking forward to the prospect of A-League and community football combining in tandem to play competitive fixtures. This notion will hopefully come about when the proposed FFA Cup is introduced. There are aspirations of this occurring next year; however without sponsors or relevant planning, the wait may need venture on a little longer.

The six remaining clubs will be split into two groups, comprising of three



Mile Medjedovic scores the winner and celebrates accordingly in Green Gully's 1-0 win over Hume City last Tuesday night. Photo: STEVE STAREK

teams equally. Each team will be assigned to one home fixture and one away fixture, whereby the top two teams in each group will progress to the Semi-Finals stage.

Pool A will encompass Northcote City, Oakleigh Cannons and Springvale White Eagles. Meanwhile, Pool B will comprise of Green Gully Cavaliers, Hume City and Melbourne Knights.

Pool B Match 1: Green Gully vs Hume City

With the finale of the home & away season coming to a closure over the weekend, the mid-week cup tie would have most probably played second fiddle on their priority list, given the evenness of the VPL competition, where clubs were fighting for respective finals positions.

Nevertheless, it was business as usual for the VPL affiliates, who have encompassed rather successful seasons to date. Hume City have showcased their championship credentials by finishing prominently in the VPL.

Green Gully had a rather lacklustre start to their championship defence, dwindling at the bottom half of the table; however a resurgence saw them

finish prominently, to take their place in the top five.

The opening half depicted a competitive affair, with both outfits illustrating their intent to attack and find an early goal. However, it didn't come to avail, as neither team could find a way through on goal. The teams entered the half time interval deadlocked at 0-0.

The second half contained similar components to the opening interval, with both teams attempting to get their name on the scoresheet, amid an attacking mind-set. With compact defensive lines and a few squandered chances, it was looking as though a solitary goal could very well have been what ultimately separates the two outfits after 90 minutes. With this in mind, Green Gully seized their opportunity and took the advantage with a nicely timed strike.

Green Gully endured Hume's late surge towards goal, although the Cavaliers held on gallantly to record a 1-0 victory. The win put the team in a healthy stead to proceed to the Semi-Finals.

This week's fixtures:

The Quarter-Finals Series continues this week with two fixtures taking place on Wednesday night. The Pool B encounter between Hume City and Melbourne Knights will be vastly important for Hume. Given their loss in the opening match, anything but a win will more than likely send them out of the Mirabella Cup. Meanwhile, the opening Pool A match will see Oakleigh Cannons play host to the recently relegated Springvale White Eagles at Jack Edwards Reserve.

Follow Robert on Twitter @Robert-DiFabio

The Final Six

Wed 10 Aug 11 7:00PM
Hume City v Melbourne Knights
Knights Stadium

Wed 10 Aug 11 7:30PM
Oakleigh Cannons v Springvale WE
Jack Edwards Reserve

Wed 17 Aug 11 7:00PM
Melbourne Knights v Green Gully
Knights Stadium



Cut throat cup tie! Ross Thompson holds back Cameron Drake after things got heated. Photo: STEVE STAREK



Daniel Piovesan was born on the 29th of October 1992 in Melbourne to Italian Parents. Daniel currently plays for St. Albans in the Victorian Premier League (VPL). Daniel is a tall, confident defensive midfielder who has played six games for St. Albans after it was confirmed they would be relegated to State League One. Since St. Albans relegation the Saints have been playing with a youthful line-up as more experienced heads like Liam Cannel land Danny Tiatto moved on.

Daniel played for Hoppers Crossing until the under 13's where he met teammate and close friend Anthony Themis. But more on him later. In the under 14's he played at Brimbank Soccer Club where he was coached by Victor Cristaldo and played along with follow Goal! Weekly interviewees Christopher Cristaldo and Hernan Espindola. From Brimbank he moved onto Keilor Park to play under 15s and under 16s where he won two state championships. It wasn't until the 2009 season where he got his breakthrough into the big leagues by playing for Sunshine George Cross where he played in the reserves. After their relegation in 2010 he moved to current club St. Albans.

Most of this season he has played in the under 21's but has impressed Saints manager Vinjo Buljbasic enough to play in a defensive midfield role in the seniors. Daniel has impressed in the vital defensive role in midfield with some good performances despite some poor team performances. Those poor team performances proved by St. Albans only winning three games this season and with two of those wins over the youthful Victorian Training Centre shows that they are out of their depth.

Like Daniel Piovesan, Anthony Themis

has played about six games either starting or coming off the bench. Anthony was born on the 19th of December 1992 in Nicosia, Cyprus. Anthony who is a small attacking midfielder moved to Melbourne in 1998. Anthony played with Mill Park Soccer Club in the under 10s before moving to Yarraville Glory FC then onto Hoppers Crossing. Since meeting Daniel Piovesan at Hoppers they have been close friends ever since.

Anthony then went onto Preston Lions for their under 16s before returning to Yarraville Glory FC to play seniors in State League Three. In 2011 he moved onto St. Albans where he started in the under 21s before impressing to get promoted to the seniors.

Both boys are very determined, passionate and confident about the game and look to have good futures in the horizons.

I sat down with both of these boys to talk football, Melbourne Heart trials, their future and much, much more.

Earliest football Memory:

DP: Kicking with Dad in the park in Werribee and going to the Ricky Tiatto Academy.

AT: Probably Winning 4 cups in one season in under 10s with Mill Park Soccer Club.

Football idols:

DP: Zinedine Zidane, Xavi Hernandez and Andrea Pirlo.

AT: Mesut Ozil, Zinedine Zidane, Steven Gerrard, Andres Iniesta.

Goal in football career:

DP: To make it as a professional soccer player in Europe

AT: To Play in the English championship then eventually in the English Premier League hopefully one day.

What made you want to play football?

DP: I just love the game. You know? From a young age when I first kicked soccer ball I just loved it. So I wanted to kick on with it.

AT: First got into because of my Dad. He used to play as well. Then I got into it and then I just loved it and haven't stopped



Sky's The Limit

Anthony Themis and Daniel Piovesan have bright futures in front of them.

since.

Which club do you wish to play for?

DP: Barcelona.

AT: Liverpool.

What are your strengths?

DP: My passing, control of ball, vision, through balls, long and short passes and reading of the play. Closing down space as well.

AT: Quick short passes, taking players on feeding ball though to the striker, switch balls. All that kind of stuff.

What are you weaknesses?

DP: Probably need to be a bit more aggressive at senior level and my physical strength as well.

AT: Physical strength.

How well is the current season progressing?

DP: I reckon I have progressed really well this season. As an individual I've played 6 senior games now with St. Albans. Even in a Defensive Midfield position as well. It's one of the key positions. And I've got good feedback from the coaches.

AT: Pretty well, started off in the reserves, the under 21s. And I think I played pretty well in there then I got my seniors gig. And I think I've been playing well since. A pretty good season.

Do you do anything different or special in training to improve as a player?

DP: Well after training with St. Albans I stay an extra half an hour. And in my spare time I go to nearest park and have kick

for an hour or two hours by myself. Just working on technical ability and things that I need to improve on.

AT: Well I try and work on my weaknesses in training. You know because that is the most realistic situation. So I try and work on my weaknesses and make them strengths.

Do you do anything different or special in training to impress the coach/manager?

DP: Oh I work hard on movement. I move a lot when I pass. Pass and move a lot.

AT: Not really. I'm always trying to impress. You know just do what I have to do. Just train well and keep doing well so the coach can see ya.

Do you feel pressure to perform? If so from who?

DP: At senior level. Yeah I do. Because such a young player you want to you know do well and make a name for yourself. Yeah so at every game at senior level I want to do well.

AT: Not really. You only feel a few nerves. Not much pressure because I just want to enjoy it when I play and not think about it too much.

Is that from yourself or the coach?

DP: Nah, from myself. I've got high expectation from myself.

Are you happy with your current club and situation?

DP: Yeah well I am because I'm playing seniors but not because we are getting relegated. So I want to stay in the Victorian Premier League or higher.

AT: Yeah I'm pretty happy, yeah. Playing in the VPL so it's good.

Even though St. Albans got relegated?

AT: Well Yeah I mean it's not good to get relegated. I'm still happy Still want to focus on self to play. You know keep playing. That's all I care about to be honest.

You have had trials from Melbourne Heart. How did you think you went?

DP: I thought I did well. I thought I did all I could with the time I got.

AT: Yeah at start of year. I thought I did pretty well to be honest with ya. Yeah I didn't start too well then got into game and I played pretty well.

What did you learn from your experience with Melbourne Heart?

DP: The level I need to reach to be picked for A-League.

AT: Be a bit more professional. To work really hard when a situation arises and just do your best.

If you don't successfully earn a contract with Melbourne Heart then what is the next move for your future?

DP: Probably, I dunno. Go overseas to a youth team or try another A-League team. Impress in the seniors in Victorian Premier League to get another A-League team to have a look.

AT: Probably try and stay in the VPL or maybe try and go overseas and see how I go in England.

I heard you used to support Melbourne Victory and now you support Melbourne Heart. Why the change?

AT: I Like the way how John van't Schip plays his football. It's a bit more like European football style. The touches and stuff I like. It's a bit more technical.

What would you do if Melbourne Victory offer you a contract? Would you cross the line again?

AT: Definitely. Couldn't really care. As long as I am playing a high league with anyone.

Would you consider playing for Italy if you had the opportunity?

DP: Nah. Australia is my home town and country so I want to stay with them. I want to win a world cup with them.

Would you consider playing for Cyprus if you had the opportunity?

AT: I'm not too sure. Cyprus don't get in world cup much. Umm not too sure, maybe. I couldn't tell ya.

Many thanks for your time and best of luck with the future.

Arsenal

Manager: Arsene Wenger
Last season: 4th
Nickname: The Gunners
Ground: Emirates Stadium
Trivia: Arsenal holds the records of most consecutive seasons spent in the top flight (84 as of 2010–11) and the longest run of unbeaten League matches (49 between May 2003 and October 2004).



This was to be the off-season when Arsenal finally let loose and spent some money. But with a week to go until the new season kicks off, Ivory Coast forward Gervinho is the still the solitary new signing at the Emirates. Worst still, this summer has seen the continuation of the tedious Cesc Fabregas to Barcelona saga, which thankfully looks like reaching its inevitable conclusion shortly. If pre-season is anything to go by, Arsenal still need an experienced central defender to marshal a back-line prone to errors. Getting one could be the difference between finishing fourth or lower.

GW Prediction: 4th

Squad:

1 GK Manuel Almunia, 2 MF Abou Diaby, 3 DF Bacary Sagna, 4 MF Cesc Fabregas (captain), 5 DF Thomas Vermaelen, 6 DF Laurent Koscielny, 7 MF Tomáš Rosický, 8 MF Samir Nasri, 10 FW Robin van Persie (vice-captain), 11 FW Carlos Vela, 13 GK Wojciech Szczęsny, 14 FW Theo Walcott, 16 MF Aaron Ramsey, 17 MF Alex Song, 18 DF Sébastien Squillaci, 19 MF Jack Wilshere, 20 DF Johan Djourou, 21 GK Lukasz Fabiański, 23 MF Andrei Arshavin, 24 GK Vito Mannone, 25 DF Carl Jenkinson, 27 MF Emmanuel Eboué, 28 DF Kieran Gibbs, 29 FW Marouane Chamakh, 30 DF Armand Traoré, 35 MF Emmanuel Frimpong, 40 MF Craig Eastmond, 46 MF Henri Lansbury, 52 FW Nicklas Bendtner, — FW Gervinho, — FW Ryo Miyachi

Aston Villa

Manager: Alex McLeish
Last Season: 9th
Nickname: The Villans
Ground: Villa Park
Trivia: They are fifth in the All-time FA Premier League table and have the fourth highest total of major honours won by an English club with 20 wins. The club's last major honour was in 1996 when they won the League Cup.



It would be hard for any Villa supporter to see the appointment of Alex McLeish as anything other than a downgrading of expectations. In this new age of austerity at Villa Park, McLeish has shrewdly replaced Stewart Downing with Charles N'Zogbia for half the price, and brought in the excellent stopper Shay Given between the sticks. Villa should be a decent enough squad, but anything other than a mid table finish looks beyond them.

GW Prediction: 16th

Squad:

1 GK Shay Given, 2 DF Luke Young, 3 DF Stephen Warnock, 5 DF Richard Dunne, 7 MF Stephen Ireland, 10 FW Darren Bent, 10 MF Charles N'Zogbia, 11 FW Gabriel Agbonlahor, 12 MF Marc Albrighton, 14 FW Nathan DeLuoono, 16 MF Fabian Delph, 17 MF Jean Makoun, 18 FW Emile Heskey, 19 MF Stilian Petrov (captain), 20 DF Ciaran Clark, 22 GK Brad Guzan, 23 DF Habib Beye, 24 DF Carlos Cuéllar, 25 MF Barry Bannan, 26 FW Andreas Weimann, 28 MF Jonathan Hogg, 29 DF James Collins, 30 DF Eric Lichaj, 31 MF Chris Herd, 32 DF Nathan Baker, 33 GK Andy Marshall, 34 DF Shane Lowry, 35 MF Daniel Johnson, 38 MF Gary Gardner, 43 GK Elliot Parish

Blackburn Rovers

Manager: Steve Kean
Last Season: 15th
Nickname: Rovers
Ground: Ewood park
Trivia: Blackburn Rovers were founder members of the Football League in 1888.



It has been a worrying off-season for Blackburn supporters still dubious as to the merits of their Indian owners Venky's. There have so far been more outs than ins at Ewood Park, and one feels further investment will be required before the season kicks off if they are to shrug off their tag as one of the favourites for relegation. That said, Blackburn have a very promising young midfield, with David Hoilett and Steven N'Zonzi the stand outs, and if they can snag an experienced striker should be able to pull clear of the scrap for

relegation.

Prediction: 15th

Squad:

1 GK Paul Robinson, 2 DF Michel Salgado, 3 DF Martin Olsson, 4 DF Christopher Samba, 5 DF Gaël Givet, 6 DF Ryan Nelsen (team captain), 7 MF Brett Emerton, 8 MF David Dunn, 9 FW Nikola Kalinic, 10 MF Mauro Formica, 11 MF Vince Grella, 12 MF Morten Gamst Pedersen, 13 GK Mark Bunn, 14 MF Amine Linganzi, 15 MF Steven N'Zonzi, 17 MF Keith Andrews, 20 FW Rubén Rochina, 23 FW David Hoilett, 26 MF Harold Goulon, 29 DF Gavin Gunning, 30 FW Jason Roberts, 31 DF Grant Hanley, 33 DF Josh Morris, 35 MF Jason Lowe, 37 FW Zac Aley, 38 MF Robbie Cotton, 41 FW Nick Blackman, — FW El Hadji Diouf, - FW David Goodwillie.

Blackburn Wanderers

Manager: Owen Coyle
Last season: 14th
Nickname: The wanderers
Ground: Reebok Stadium
Trivia: Bolton have spent the highest number of seasons in the top flight without winning the title (the 2010–11 season was their 72nd, non-consecutive, year in the top flight). The highest position they have achieved in the top flight is third in the Football League First Division on three occasions (1981–92, 1920–21 and 1924–25). They began their current spell in the Premier League in 2001.



There hasn't been a great deal of activity at the Reebok Stadium thus far this off-season, and a mounting injury list will surely be worrying manager Owen Coyle. Bolton have just lost the excellent South Korean international Lee Chung-Yong to a broken leg and still look a little tight up front, with both of their top scorers - Johan Elmander and Daniel Sturridge - from last season leaving over the summer. A place just outside the top ten looks likely.

GW Prediction: 10th

Squad:

1 GK Ádám Bogdán, 2 DF Grégar Steinsson, 3 DF Marcos Alonso, 4 DF Paul Robinson, 5 DF Gary Cahill, 6 MF Fabrice Muamba, 6 MF Stuart Holden, 10 MF Martin Petrov, 11 MF Ricardo Gardner, 12 DF Zai Knight, 14 FW Kevin Davies (captain), 16 MF Mark Davies, 17 FW Ivan Klasnic, 18 DF Sam Ricketts, 20 FW Robbie Blake, 22 GK Jussi Jaaskelainen, 23 MF Sean Davis, 26 GK Robert Lainton, 27 MF Chung-Yong Lee, 29 FW Michael O'Halloran, 31 DF David Wheater, 35.FW.Tope.Obadayo, 40.FW.Tom.Eaves, 44.MF.Josh.Vela, - MF Chris Eagles, - DF Tyrone Mears, - MF Darren Pralleay, - MF Nigel Reo-Coker

Chelsea

Manager: Andrea Villa-Boas
Last season: 2nd
Nickname: The Blues
Ground: Stamford Bridge
Trivia: Chelsea hold the record for the longest streak of unbeaten matches at home in the English top-flight, which lasted 86 matches from 20 March 2004 to 26 October 2008.



The arrival of the highly-rated Andre Villa Boas was expected to be the catalyst for wholesale changes at Stamford Bridge, but this is yet to materialise. Villa Boas' Porto played a very aggressive, attacking 4-3-3 formation, but his Chelsea squad lacks the same pace and goal threat from wide areas. It may therefore be more of a case of gradual rather than immediate change for a squad that still looks capable of challenging for the league title, but that currently lacks the cutting edge to take home the trophy.

GW Prediction: 2nd

Squad:

1 GK Petr Čech, 2 DF Branislav Ivanović, 3 DF Ashley Cole, 4 DF David Luiz, 5 MF Michael Essien, 7 MF Ramires, 8 MF Frank Lampard (vice-captain), 9 FW Fernando Torres, 10 MF Yossi Benayoun, 11 FW Didier Drogba, 12 MF Mikael John Obi, 15 MF Florent Malouda, 17 DF José Bosingwa, 18 MF Yuri Zhirkov, 19 DF Paulo Ferreira, 21 FW Salomon Kalou, 22 GK Ross Turnbull, 23 FW Daniel Sturridge, 26 DF John Terry (club captain), 30 GK Rhys Taylor, 33 DF Alex, 34 DF Ryan Bertrand, 35 DF Tomáš Kalas, 38 DF Patrick van Aanholt, 39 FW Nicolas Anelka, 40 GK Henrique Hilário, 44 FW Gaël Kakuta, 46 MF Scott McEchran, 52 MF Jacob Mellis, 63 DF Siobodan Rajković, — GK Matej Delac, — DF Ben Gordon

Everton

Manager: David Morales
Last season: 7th
Nickname: The Toffees
Ground: Goodison Park
Trivia: Everton's most widely recognised nickname is "The Toffees" or "The Toffeemen", which came about after Everton had moved to Goodison. There are several explanations for how this name came to be adopted, the most well known being that there was a business in Everton village, between Everton Brow and Brow Side, named Mother Nocket's, a toffee shop, which advertised and sold sweets, including the Everton Mint.



Approaching his tenth year in charge at Goodison Park, David Moyes could be forgiven for glancing enviously elsewhere after another off-season in which transfer funds have not been forthcoming. Everton are currently the only side not to have signed a senior player ahead of the new season and Moyes will have to rely on canny loan signings to add to his squad. Everton do have a strong set of players, but without the consistently prolific striker and speedy winger that would make them credible top four challengers, a place just outside the top six looks far more likely.

GW Prediction: 7th

Squad:

1 GK Jan Mucha, 2 DF Tony Hibbert, 3 DF Leighton Baines, 4 DF Joseph Yobo, 5 DF John Heitinga, 6 DF Phil Jagielka, 7 MF Diniyar Bilyaletdinov, 8 FW Louis Saha, 10 MF Mikael Arteta (vice-captain), 15 DF Sylvain Distin, 16 FW Jermaine Beckford, 17 MF Tim Cahill (vice-captain), 18 DF Phil Neville (captain), 19 FW Magaye Gueye, 20 MF Ross Barkley, 21 MF Leon Osman, 22 FW Yakubu, 23 DF Séamus Coleman, 24 GK Tim Howard, 25 MF Marouane Fellaini, 26 MF Jack Rodwell, 27 FW Apostolos Vellios, 28 FW Victor Anichebe, 29 FW João Silva, 30 DF Shkodran Mustafi, 33 MF Adam Forshaw, 34 DF Shane Duffy, 36 MF Araz Abdullayev, 37 FW Jose Baxter, 38 MF James Wallace, 40 FW Conor McLaney

Fulham

Manager: Martin Jol
Last season: 8th
Nickname: The Cottagers
Ground: Craven Cottage
Trivia: Fulham has never won a major honour, although they had reached two major finals. In 1975, as a Second Division side, they contested the FA Cup final for the only time in their history, losing 2–0 to West Ham United. Fulham reached the 2010 Europa League final, which they contested with Atlético Madrid in Hamburg, losing 2–1 after extra time.



Fulham should be able to hit the ground running having already played a number of competitive matches in the qualification rounds of the Europa League. Jovial Dutchman Martin Jol has taken the reigns and signed a couple of promising young midfielders to add to an already decent squad. If Bobby Zamora can stay injury free then there's no reason why The Cottagers can't aim for a top ten finish.

GW Prediction 8th

Squad:

1 GK Mark Schwarzer, 2 DF Stephen Kelly, 3 DF Carlos Salcido, 4 MF Steve Sidwell, 5 DF Brede Hangeland, 6 DF Chris Baird, 7 DF John Arne Riise, 8 FW Andy Johnson, 10 MF Pajtim Kasami, 13 MF Danny Murphy (captain), 14 DF Philippe Senderos, 15 MF Marcel Gecov, 16 MF Damien Duff, 17 MF Bjørn Helge Riise, 18 DF Aaron Hughes (vice-captain), 19 GK Csaba Somogyi, 20 MF Dickson Etuhi, 23 MF Clint Dempsey, 25 FW Bobby Zamora, 29 MF Simon Davies, 30 FW Moussa Dembélé, 32 DF Rafik Halliche

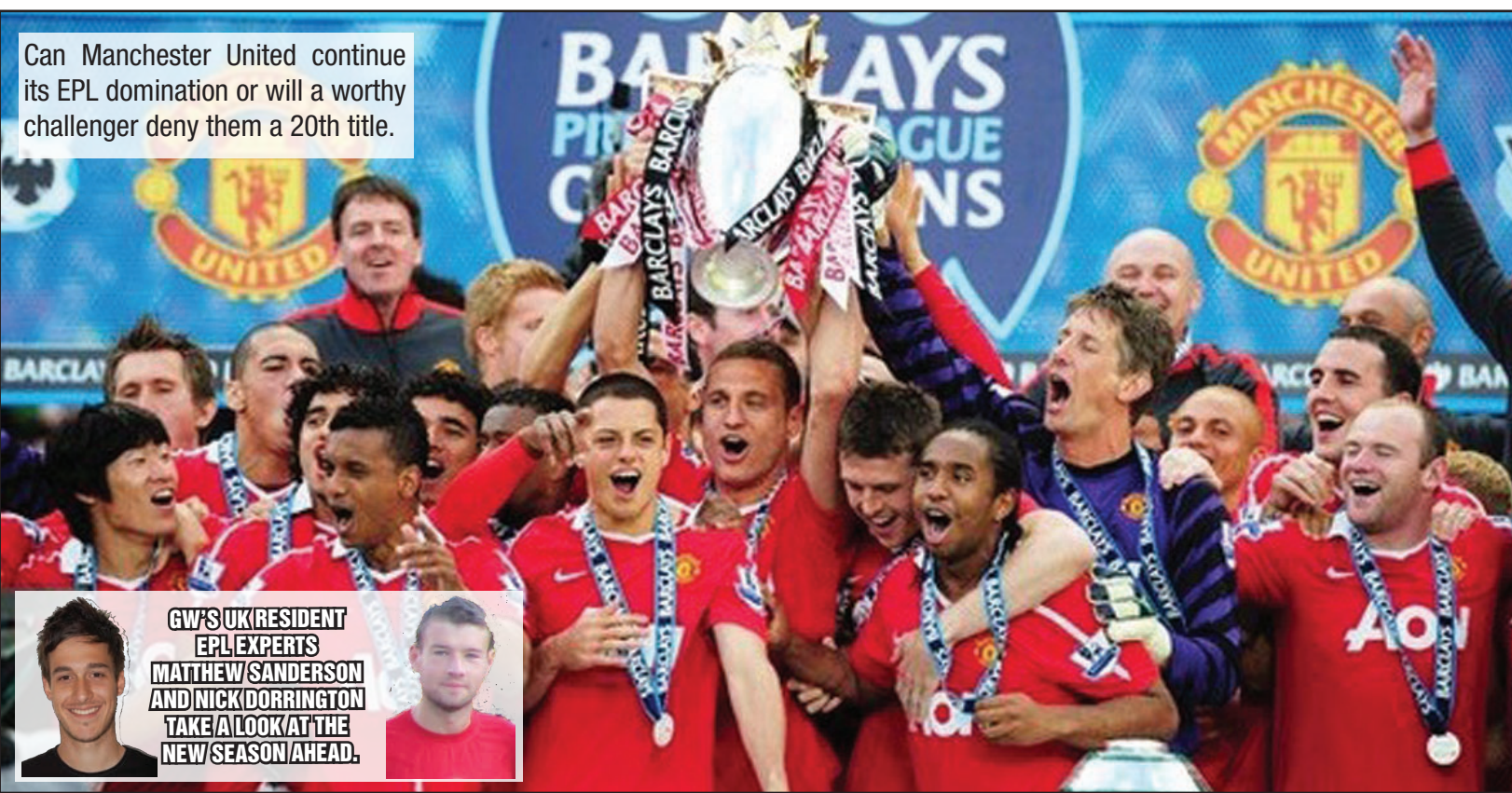
Liverpool

Manager: Kenny Dalglish
Last season: 6th
Nickname: The Reds
Ground: Anfield
Trivia: Liverpool has one of the best records in the history of top-level football. The club has accumulated more top-flight wins than any other English team.



Kenny Dalglish and sporting director Damian Comolli have waved the cash in the off-season but it is questionable to what degree they have actually improved the starting eleven in the process. Stewart Downing will add some much needed width, but Charlie Adam and Jordan Henderson seem unlikely to get a game on a regular basis. That said, Liverpool were outstanding in the second half of last

Can Manchester United continue its EPL domination or will a worthy challenger deny them a 20th title.



season and in Luis Suarez possess a world-class striker more than capable of firing his team to a top four challenge.
GW Prediction: 5th

Squad:

1 GK Brad Jones, 2 DF Glen Johnson, 4 MF Raul Meireles, 5 DF Daniel Agger, 6 DF Fábio Aurélio, 7 FW Luis Suárez, 8 MF Steven Gerrard (captain), 9 FW Andy Carroll, 10 MF Joe Cole, 11 MF Maxi Rodríguez, 12 FW Daniel Pacheco, 14 MF Jordan Henderson, 16 DF Sotirios Kyrgiakos, 18 FW Dirk Kuyt, 19 MF Stewart Downing, 20 MF Jay Spearing, 21 MF Lucas Leiva, 22 DF Danny Wilson, 23 DF Jamie Carragher (vice-captain), 24 FW David N'Gog, 25 GK Pepe Reina, 26 MF Charlie Adam, 28 MF Christian Poulsen, 32 GK Doni, 33 MF Jonjo Shelvey, 34 DF Martin Kelly, 37 DF Martin Škrtel, 38 DF John Flanagan, 40 DF Daniel Ayala, — MF Alberto Aquilani, — mDF Philipp Degen, — MF Nabil El Zhar, — DF Emiliano Insua.

Manchester City

Manager: Robert Mancini
Last season: 3rd
Nickname: City
Ground: City of Manchester Stadium
Trivia: After losing the 1981 FA Cup Final, the club went through a period of decline culminating in relegation to the third tier of English football in 1997. The club has since regained top flight status where they have spent the majority of their history. In 2011, Manchester City qualified for the Champions League and won the FA Cup.



The antics of Carlos Tevez and Mario Balotelli have somewhat overshadowed City's preparations for the new season, but Roberto Mancini has added a couple of astute defensive signings and in Sergio Aguero has a real thoroughbred striker, more technically gifted than his countryman Tevez. What remains to be seen is whether Aguero can take the rest of the team by the scruff of the neck in the same manner as Tevez did on so many occasions last season. The answer, for this season at least, is probably no, but City will still be there or thereabouts come the end of the campaign.

GW Prediction: 3rd

Squad:

2 DF Micah Richards, 3 DF Wayne Bridge, 4 DF Vincent Kompany (vice-captain), 5 DF Pablo Zabaleta, 7 MF James Milner, 8 MF Shaun Wright-Phillips, 9 FW Emmanuel Adebayor, 10 FW Edin Džeko, 11 MF Adam Johnson, 12 GK Stuart Taylor, 13 DF Aleksandar Kolarov, 14 FW Roque Santa Cruz, 15 DF Stefan Savic, 16 FW Sergio Agüero, 18 MF Gareth Barry, 19 DF Joleon Lescott, 21 MF David Silva, 22 DF Gaël Cllichy, 25 GK Joe Hart, 28 DF Kolo Touré, 34 MF Nigel de Jong, 37 GK Gunnar Nielsen, 38 DF Dedryck Boyata, 39 FW Craig Bellamy, 40 MF Vladimir Weiss, 42 MF Yaya Touré, 43 FW Alex Nimely, 45 FW Mario Balotelli, 62 MF Abdul Razak, — DF Greg Cunningham, — DF Nedum Onuoha.

Manchester Utd

Manager: Alex Ferguson
Last season: 1st
Nickname: The Red Devils
Ground: Old Trafford
Trivia: Manchester United is the most successful club in English football, having won a record 19 league titles, a record 11 FA Cups and four League Cups. The club has also won three European Cups and has twice been club world champions, in 1999 and 2008.



looks very promising is Cheik Tioté, the Ivorian midfielder looked the part last season and scored the sensational equaliser in Newcastle's 4-4 draw with Arsenal. Even so, Newcastle will struggle this season—especially if midfielder Joey Barton leaves the club.
GW Prediction: 14th

Squad:

1 GK Steve Harper, 2 DF Fabricio Colocchini (captain), 3 DF José Enrique, 4 MF Yohan Cabaye, 6 DF Mike Williamson, 7 MF Joey Barton, 8 MF Danny Guthrie, 10 MF Hatem Ben Arfa, 11 FW Peter Levenkrands, 12 DF Danny Simpson, 13 FW Xisco, 14 DF James Perch, 15 MF Dan Gosling, 16 DF Ryan Taylor, 17 MF Alan Smith, 18 MF Jonás Gutiérrez, 19 FW Demba Ba, 20 FW Leon Best, 21 GK Fraser Forster, 22 MF Sylvain Marveaux, 23 FW Shola Ameobi, 24 MF Cheik Tioté, 25 MF Cameron Jerome, 26 GK Tim Krul, 27 DF Steven Taylor, 28 DF Tamas Kádár, 29 MF Haris Vučkic, 30 FW Nile Ranger, 31 MF Shane Ferguson, 32 MF Ryan Donaldson, 33 GK Ole Söderberg, 34 DF James Tavernier, 35 MF Brad Inman (AUS), 36 FW Sammy Ameobi, 38 FW Phil Airey, 40 MF Michael Richardson

Norwich City

Manager: Paul Lambert
Last season: The Championship-ship, 2nd (promoted)
Nickname: The Canaries
Ground: Carrow Road
Trivia: Norwich will play in the Premier League in 2011–12, after a 6 year absence, having finished as runner up in the Championship in 2010–11 and won automatic promotion.[2] They were founder members of the Premier League in 1992–93, finishing third in the inaugural season and played in its first three seasons.



The Canaries achieved back to back promotions into the Premier League—finishing as champions in League One in 2009/10 then runners up to QPR in the Championship last season. Norwich will definitely have the underdog status going into to the Premier League this season with few players of real quality and top flight experience. The players that could make a difference to the clubs hopes of survival include Grant Holt, who scored 23 goals for the Canaries last season and new boys Kyle Naughton and James Vaughan—although both are set to miss the start of the season.
GW Prediction: 19th

Newcastle United

Manager: Alan Pardew
Last season: 12th
Nickname: The Magpies
Ground: St James' Park
Trivia: They have won four First Division titles and six FA Cups, as well as the 1969 Inter-Cities Fairs Cup and the 2006 UEFA Intertoto Cup. Newcastle United has the eighth highest total of major honours won by an English club. The club's most successful period was between 1904 and 1910, when they won an FA Cup and three of their First Division titles.



Despite having their star player and top goalscorer Andy Carroll pinched by Liverpool during the January transfer window Newcastle finished in 12th position. However, they now face the prospect of a whole season without the England forward. One player on their books who

Queens Park Rangers

Manager: Neil Warnock
Last season: The Championship, 1st (Promoted)
Nickname: The Hoops
Ground: Loftus Road
Trivia: QPR was formed in 1882, when a team known as St Jude's merged with Christchurch Rangers. The resulting team was called Queens Park Rangers, because most of the players came from the Queen's Park area of North-West London.



Championship winners QPR are fully deserving of a place in the Premier League after a 15-year absence. QPR's biggest weapon was that of Adel Taarabt, scoring 19 goals last season. The jury is still out on whether the club can hold onto their most prized asset—with interest reported from numerous European clubs. The Hoops will have to be at their best to stay up this season simply due to the gulf in class between Premier League and Championship teams.
GW Prediction: 13th

Squad:

1 GK Paddy Kenny, 2 DF Bradley Orr, 3 DF Clint Hill, 4 MF Shaun Derry, 5 DF Fitz Hall, 6 DF Danny Gabbidon, 7 MF Adel Taarabt, 8 MF Kieron Dyer, 10 FW Jay Bothroyd, 11 MF Alejandro Faurin, 12 MF Akos Buzsáky, 16 DF Matthew Connolly, 19 FW Patrick Agyemang, 20 FW Rob Hulise, 21 MF Tommy Smith, 22 FW Heidar Helguson, 23 MF Petter Vaagan Moe, 24 GK Radek Černý, 25 MF Hogan Ephraim, 27 DF Peter Ramage, 28 MF Michael Doughty, 29 DF Danny Shittu, 30 FW Troy Hewitt, — MF Matteo Alberti, — MF Bruno Andrade, — DF Gary Borrowsdale, — FW Leon Clarke, — MF Lee Cook, — FW Antonio German, — DF Michael Hariman, — FW Alessandro Pellicori, — GK Elvis Punišić, — MF Martin Rowlands, — FW Rowan Vine.

Stoke City

Manager: Tony Pulis
Last season: 13th
Nickname: The Potters
Ground: Britannia Stadium
Trivia: They play in the Premier League after winning promotion in 2008; prior to this Stoke had not participated in top flight football for twenty-three years. Their first, and to date only, major trophy was won in the 1972 Football League Cup Final, when they beat Chelsea 2–1.



The Potters finished 13th last season in the league and reached the final of the FA Cup—losing at

Wembley to Manchester City. Their run in the cup meant they qualified for the 2011/12 UEFA Europa League. Often considered to be more like a rugby team than a football team their style of play isn't for everybody but there is definite talent within the squad; including Kenwyne Jones, Jermaine Pennant and goalkeeper Thomas Sørensen.
GW Prediction: 9th

Squad:

1 GK Asmir Begović, 3 DF Danny Higginbotham, 4 DF Robert Huth, 5 DF Danny Collins, 6 MF Glenn Whelan, 7 MF Jermaine Pennant, 8 MF Tom Soares, 9 FW Kenwyne Jones, 10 FW Ricardo Fuller, 11 FW Mamady Sidibé, 12 MF Marc Wilson, 14 MF Danny Pugh, 15 MF Salif Diao, 17 DF Ryan Shawcross (captain), 18 MF Dean Whitehead, 19 FW Jonathan Walters, 21 DF Andrew Davies, 23 MF Michael Tonge, 24 MF Rory Delap, 26 MF Matthew Etherington, 27 GK Carlo Nash, 28 DF Andy Wilkinson, 29 GK Thomas Sørensen, 30 DF Ryan Shotton, 32 MF Diego Arismendi, 35 FW Ben Marshall, 38 MF Florent Cuvelier, 39 DF Jonathan Woodgate, 42 FW Louis Moult.

Sunderland

Manager: Steve Bruce
Last season: 10th
Nickname: The Black Cats
Ground: Stadium of Light
Trivia: Since its formation in 1879, the club has won six first Division titles — in 1892, 1893, 1895, 1902, 1913, and 1936 — and the FA Cup twice, in 1937 and 1973.



The Black Cats suffered the same fate as their inter-city rivals Newcastle—with Darren Bent moving to Aston Villa in the January transfer window. Despite his departure and a mid-season slump Sunderland finished 10th in the Barclays Premier League. This season the club will be without Steed Malmbranque and a future England star, Jordan Henderson—who completed a move to Liverpool this summer. Steve Bruce has brought in two Manchester United players this summer, presumably in the hope they will inject some winning mentality into the rest of the squad.
GW Prediction: 11th

Squad:

1 GK Craig Gordon, 20 GK Keiren Westwood, 22 GK Simon Mignolet, 24 GK Trevor Carson, 2 DF Phil Bard-sley, 16, DF John O'Shea, DF Blair Adams, DF Marcos Angeleri, DF Titus Bramble, DF Wes Brown, DF Antonio Ferdinand, DF Louis Laing, DF Kieran Richardson DF Michael Turner, 7 MF Sebastian Larsson, 14 MF Jack Colback, 27 MF Ahmed Elmohamady, 28 MF Stéphane Sessegnon, MF Lee Cattemole, MF Jordan Cook, MF Craig Gardner, MF Billy Knott MF Steed Malmbranque, MF David Meyler, MF David Vaughan, 10 FW Connor Wickham, 17 FW Ji Dong-Won, FW Fraizer Carr, FW Asamoah Gyan, FW Craig Lynch, FW Ryan Noble.

Swansea City

Manager: Brendan Rodgers
Last season: The Championship-ship, 3rd (promoted via play-off)
Nickname: The Swans
Ground: Liberty Stadium
Trivia: They played in the old Football League First Division between 1981 and 1983, finishing fifth in their first season. In 2010–11 they were promoted to the Premier League, after winning the Football League Championship play-offs, and will become the first Welsh club to play in the division.



The Swans made history by becoming the first Welsh team to reach England's top flight beating Reading 4-2 in the final of the Championship play-offs. We can now look forward to the likes of Manchester United and Chelsea travelling to Wales for Premier League matches. One of Swansea's key players arriving from Chelsea last season was Scott Sinclair who scored 27 goals for them in his first season with the club. He will need to attempt to mirror this success to help the Swans survive this season.
GW Prediction: 20th

Squad:

1 GK Ben Foster (on loan from Birmingham City), 2 DF Joe Mattock, 3 DF Jonas Olsson (vice-captain), 4 DF Marek Čech, 5 MF Somen Tchoyi, 6 DF Pablo Ibáñez, 7 MF James Morrison, 8 MF Zoltán Gera, 9 FW Roman Bednár, 10 FW Ishmael Miller, 11 MF Chris Brunt (club captain), 12 MF Steven Reid, 14 MF Jerome Thomas, 15 FW Chris Wood, 17 MF Graham Dorrans, 19 GK Luke Daniels, 20 DF Nicky Shorey, 21 MF Youssef Mulumbu, 23 DF Gareth McAuley, 24 FW Peter Odemwingie, 25 FW Marc-Antoine Fortuné, 26 DF James Hurst, 28 DF Billy Jones, 29 MF George Thome, 30 DF Gabriel Tamaš, 31 FW Simon Cox, 32 FW Lateef Elford-Aliyu, 33 MF Paul Schärer, 34 MF Paul Downing, 35 MF Romaine Sawyers, 36 DF Gonzalo Jara, 37 MF Kayelden Brown, 38 FW Saido Berahino, — DF Craig Dawson.

23 MF Ryan Harley, 24 MF Joe Allen, 25 MF Wayne Routledge, 26 MF Keny Agustien, 27 MF Mark Gower, 28 MF Thomas Butler, 29 MF Ashley Richards, 31 MF Lee Lucas, 32 DF Ben Davies, 34 DF Joe Walsh, 35 DF Daniel Alliel, 36 FW Casey Thomas, 37 MF Jordan Smith, 38 MF Gwion Edwards, 39 MF Kurtis March

Tottenham Hotspur

Manager: Harry Redknapp
Last season: 5th
Nickname: Spurs
Ground: White hart Lane
Trivia: Tottenham were the first club in the 20th century to achieve the League and FA Cup Double, winning both competitions in the 1960–61 season. After successfully defending the FA Cup in 1962, in 1963 they became the first British club to win a UEFA club competition – the European Cup Winners' Cup.



Spurs enjoyed Champions League football for the first time last season and although not looking out of place in the prestigious tournament suffered a heavy defeat to Real Madrid in the quarter-finals. Unfortunately for the north London club they were not able to replicate the same results in the league as they did the previous season, meaning they will only be playing Europa league football this time around. Harry Redknapp will be hoping Gareth Bale continues to flourish and that Luka Modric stays at the club to have any chance of securing a top four finish this season.
GW Prediction: 6th

Squad:

1 GK Heurelho Gomes, 2 DF Alan Hutton, 3 MF Gareth Bale, 4 DF Younés Kaboul, 5 MF David Bentley, 6 MF Tom Huddlestone, 7 MF Aaron Lennon, 8 MF Jermaine Jenas, 9 FW Roman Pavlyuchenko, 10 FW Robbie Keane, 11 MF Rafael van der Vaart, 12 MF Wilson Palacios, 13 DF William Gallas, 14 MF Luka Modrić, 15 FW Peter Crouch, 17 FW Giovanni dos Santos, 18 FW Jermain Defoe, 19 DF Sébastien Bassong, 20 DF Michael Dawson (vice captain), 21 MF Niko Kranjčar, 22 DF Vedran Ćorluka, 23 GK Carlo Cudicini, 25 MF Danny Rose, 26 DF Ledley King (captain), 27 GK Ben Alnwick, 28 DF Kyle Walker, 29 MF Jake Livermore, 30 MF Sandro, 32 DF Benoit Assou-Ekotto, 40 MF Steven Pienaar, — GK Brad Friedel.

West Bromwich Albion

Manager: Roy Hodgson
Last season: 11th
Nickname: The Baggies
Ground: The Hawthorns
Trivia: They have been champions of England once, in 1919–20, but have had more success in the FA Cup, with five wins. The first came in 1888, the year the league was founded, and the most recent in 1968, their last major trophy.



The Baggies finished 11th last season, an impressive accomplishment after only securing promotion from the Championship the season before. A big factor in their success in the league was that of Roy Hodgson—replacing Roberto Di Matteo in February this year. Hodgson, who never quite coped with the pressure of managing Liverpool looks perfectly placed to keep West Brom in the Premier League for a number of years. The signing of keeper Ben Foster from Birmingham City is another positive for the club.
GW Prediction: 12th

Squad:

1 GK Ben Foster (on loan from Birmingham City), 2 DF Joe Mattock, 3 DF Jonas Olsson (vice-captain), 4 DF Marek Čech, 5 MF Somen Tchoyi, 6 DF Pablo Ibáñez, 7 MF James Morrison, 8 MF Zoltán Gera, 9 FW Roman Bednár, 10 FW Ishmael Miller, 11 MF Chris Brunt (club captain), 12 MF Steven Reid, 14 MF Jerome Thomas, 15 FW Chris Wood, 17 MF Graham Dorrans, 19 GK Luke Daniels, 20 DF Nicky Shorey, 21 MF Youssef Mulumbu, 23 DF Gareth McAuley, 24 FW Peter Odemwingie, 25 FW Marc-Antoine Fortuné, 26 DF James Hurst, 28 DF Billy Jones, 29 MF George Thome, 30 DF Gabriel Tamaš, 31 FW Simon Cox, 32 FW Lateef Elford-Aliyu, 33 MF Paul Schärer, 34 MF Paul Downing, 35 MF Romaine Sawyers, 36 DF Gonzalo Jara, 37 MF Kayelden Brown, 38 FW Saido Berahino, — DF Craig Dawson.

Wigan Athletic

Manager: Roberto Martinez
Last season: 16th
Nickname: The Latics
Ground: DW Stadium
Trivia: As of the 2011–12 season, Wigan Athletic are the youngest club in the Premier League, having only been formed in 1932. Having been promoted from the Championship in 2005, Wigan's current spell in the Premier League is the only top flight run in the club's history.

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROS



PHOTOS: DANIEL FLIS



KEYS COMEBACK

Kevin Muscat made his long awaited return to Sunshine George Cross on Sunday when he took to the field in the cut throat game against Altona Magic at Chaplin Reserve. Kevin has gone on to play on a much bigger stage since being introduced as a 15 year old by Ernie Merrick in the 1989/90 National League season. It was Kevin's first game for Sunshine George Cross since his last game for the club against Bulleen in 1992. The Sunshine George Cross Football Club appreciates Kevin Muscat's gesture to end his playing days where it all began. Although Kevin scored from the penalty spot unfortunately Magic were too strong on the day and ran out winners 3-1.



Back Row: Michael Pichner (Assistant Coach) Reg Davani, Ante Loncaric, Rose Wallis, Richard Sexton, Con Anthopoulos, Tyler Scheafering, Tony Saric, Mario Roza, Barry Devlin, Aldo Lorienti (Property Stewart).
Front Row: Andrew Bourakis, Kevin Muscat, Michael Kelly, Daryl Warren, Ben Cogger, Eddie Soares, Heo Wookbum.



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Mirabella Australia Cup next year?



Mirabella Australia Cup next year?
THE Mirabella name will continue its lengthy association with our sport either through sponsorship of an Australia Cup or continued backing of the current Victorian-based cup competition.

A Football Federation Australia working committee should report its findings this month on the viability of an Australia-wide knockout cup competition and Joe Mirabella already has made known his company's interest in being involved.

"We have put our hands up for involvement in an FFA Australia Cup competition," said Mirabella. "We have mentioned this to (FFA CEO) Ben Buckley but we are waiting for the working committee to finalise things."

The preliminary plan is for FFA's competition to kick-off in 2012 with the final to be held on Australia Day 2013 with all the glitz and glamour that FFA's marketing might can bring to bear.

But don't for one minute think that Mirabella is ditching Football Federation Victoria with whom his company struck up a partnership leading to the creation of the Mirabella Cup.

"We have also told FFV that we are interested in continuing our involvement with the Mirabella Cup if FFA allows this competition to continue," Mirabella added.

The inaugural year of the Mirabella Cup has had its share of hiccups, notably FFA's intervention after the tournament was in full swing to stop Melbourne Victory and Melbourne Heart from being involved.

Mirabella was in a position to pull out of his company's sponsorship but his family's long-standing loyalty to the sport prevailed and although he halved his company's sponsorship to \$25,000 the planned \$50,000 in prize money remains on offer thanks to around \$32,000 raised by FFV in entry fees.

Mirabella's decision to continue his company's support for our sport has no commercial motive.

"You never make money in our sport, especially here where we are ranked behind AFL and rugby," he said.

"The truth is that we love the sport and the game has gone a long, long way in the past seven years.

"Frank Lowy has really turned things around and put soccer on the map and we're only too happy

to be involved."

What next for Gnjdic?

DANNY Gnjdic's coaching career recently took more twists and turns than a John Le Carre novel.

It all started with a phone call on the morning of Monday 18 July. It was club president Sam Panebianco calling to tell Gnjdic that he was sacked as Werribee senior coach.

"I never saw it coming. I was shocked to tell you the truth," said Gnjdic.

"We'd lost one game in 13, we'd had three points deducted for an administrative error in playing someone who had a carryover suspension from the previous season so really we should have been on top of the league.

"To be honest the team hadn't played well for the previous five weeks and the results weren't that great. Nevertheless we'd had two wins and three draws."

But that made no difference because he'd been dumped by the committee after a 2-2 home draw with Altona City on the Saturday and Panebianco was the bearer of those bad tidings.

"I knew that we'd had a bad recent result at home against Banyule (1-1) but we'd lost two players through injury in the first half of that game and did quite well to come back in the second half," said Gnjdic.

"I think there obviously were other issues involved in their decision.

"I'd moved Harry Matkovic on a couple of weeks earlier. It was a discipline issue and he joined Clifton Hill. I don't think that went down well with some people at the club."

Matkovic was with Heidelberg last year and was one of a number of squad changes effected by Gnjdic during the off-season as the club targeted promotion in 2011.

But Gnjdic wasn't on the outer for long. No sooner had he been sacked by Werribee than the Westgate job became available and that club snapped him up.

Imagine his surprise to find out that his first big home game as new Westgate supremo would be against Werribee on the night of Saturday 30 July.

It's reasonable to expect that Gnjdic's new side was fired up for this one but try as they might they couldn't keep the Bees at bay and



Fodder for conspiracy theorists, left to right: Peter Ollerton, Lou Kastner, Chris Taylor. Photo: DARRYL KENNEDY

two goals in the last 15 minutes saw the visitors run out comfortable victors.

A 2-1 away loss under lights last Friday to North Geelong followed but if Gnjdic thinks that he can easily escape the memories of his Werribee experience then he best think again.

Matkovic and his new teammates will bring memories flooding back as Westgate hosts Clifton Hill this Saturday in a game that the home side would dearly love to win to avoid being drawn into a relegation dogfight.

Meanwhile, at the other end of the table Werribee's push for the championship continues under Gnjdic's successor, Oakleigh assistant coach Nino Ragusa.

Ragusa's appointment is unusual. On the one hand he continues to assist Arthur Pappas at Oakleigh while holding the Bees coaching reins in his other hand, an arrangement made possible by the different training nights of both clubs.

At Werribee Ragusa can now call on the talents of recent recruit, former Socceroo Danny Tiatto, who joins another former Socceroo, Joe Spiteri, at the club.

Werribee also recently announced that it had come to agreement with yet another Socceroo, Craig Moore, for a guest appearance expected later this month.

And club supremo Panebianco recently fired a parting salvo at Gnjdic in the local press, telling the Wyndham Weekly: "Nino's coaching and training is a bit more intense."

Yep, the last few weeks have been interesting times indeed for Danny

Gnjdic.

Another pleasant Saturday arvo

A CHANGE of president, conspiracy theories and a close encounter of the near violent kind between a goalkeeper and his coach.

Just another pleasant Saturday afternoon at Lawton Park.

The afternoon kicked off with news that Ian Mackie had resigned as Langwarrin president due to personal reasons.

Then there was a call to unite from caretaker president Lee Atkinson via the club's matchday program but his words fell on deaf and disgruntled ears judging by the comments of many supporters.

Next it was the turn of the Langy under-21s and their coaching staff still reeling from the humiliation of the previous Monday night's 12-0 trouncing at Bulleen which followed a 7-1 home drubbing the previous week.

The really scary part of that fright night at the Veneto Club was the fact that Langy keeper Sean Skelly was their best player. He had to be after facing 28 one-on-ones!

This time things weren't so dire and they were able to contain Whittlesea to just three unanswered goals. One home fan suggested that that was cause for celebration.

Suddenly the focus of attention switched to the senior game between the relegation-bound home side and the promotion-chasing visitors.

But there's nothing quite like a conspiracy theory to add spice to an occasion and the spark for such

a discussion came with the arrival of Peter Ollerton and Chris Taylor.

This duo walked away from everyone to stand quietly on the hill behind the goals studiously dissecting the match now in progress.

One theory had it that "Olly" had been tapped up to replace Domenic Barba as coach if Whittlesea regained its Premier League status while another suggested that Langwarrin's current off-field turmoil could see Gus Macleod depart with local resident Taylor taking over.

Then along came Lou Kastner to join the duo at the centre of discussion. What role would he play when Ollerton and Taylor take their next coaching job? Assistant? Goalkeeping coach? Under-21s coach? Would it be with Ollerton or Taylor?

Throughout all of this strange goings-on had taken place on the pitch.

Whittlesea hadn't run over the top of Langwarrin, in fact there was a real contest developing and when Nick D'Angelo levelled both sides headed for the half-time break at 1-1.

Onlookers wondering why Whittlesea paid big bucks to lure Irishman Stuart Nicholson from Bentleigh Greens had that question answered when he gave Whittlesea the lead with a superb finish in the second half.

It appeared that Langy's efforts would be in vain but no-one could anticipate the brain explosion of visiting custodian Robert Santilli whose off-the-ball clash

with Langy striker Caleb Nicholes earned the home side a free kick just outside the penalty area.

By now Barba's blood pressure was high and it reached dangerous levels when Nicholes smashed the ball low past Santilli to make it 2-2 from the set piece.

Someone pressed Barba's fast-forward button and the Whittlesea coach started strutting backwards and forwards almost Chaplinesque from one end of his technical area to the other.


He also had plenty to say and before the restart Santilli decided to show us his imitation of the robot from Lost In Space. He was out of control now, arms flailing wildly as he charged towards his own bench with Barba his target.

Fortunately for all concerned a few Whittlesea players recognised the danger and stopped Santilli from entering the Guinness book of records as the first goalkeeper to throttle his coach to death during a game.

This was some afternoon and when the ref blew the final whistle with both sides locked together Langy had at least gained something after a string of poor performances while Whittlesea had missed a chance to maintain its promotion momentum.

There was no more criticism of the committee from the home fans now and the conspiracy theorist linking Ollerton with the Whittlesea job had found out that the big man had recently moved into the peninsula area.

It all ended calmly. Until next time.



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State & Provi Round 18 Fixtures

State NW 2
Geelong v Banyule City
Stead Park Reserve Fri 12 Aug KO 8:30PM
Whittlesea Ranges FC v Altona City
Partridge Reserve
Altona East Phoenix v Ballarat Red Devils
Paisley Park Soccer Complex
Brunswick City v Williamstown
Dunstan Reserve
Moreland City v Werribee City
Campbell Reserve
Westgate v FC Clifton Hill
Ardeer Reserve Sat 13 Aug KO 7:00PM

State SE
 Eastern Lions v Knox City
Gardiners Creek Reserve
 Diamond Valley Utd v Dandenong City
Parlington Flats
 Noble Park Utd v Casey Comets
Parkfield Reserve
 South Springvale v Doncaster Rovers
Warner Reserve
 Box Hill United v Morwell Pegasus
Wembley Park
 Malvern City v Heatherton Utd
Kooyong Reserve No. 3

State NW 3
Hume Utd v Whittlesea Utd
Laura Douglas Reserve
Keilor Park v Cairnlea
Keilor Park Reserve
Maribyrnong Greens v La Trobe University
Skinner Reserve
Sunbury Utd v Sydenham Park
Langama Park
Yarraville Glory v Geelong Rangers
Mclvor Reserve
Melbourne University v Avondale Heights
Princes Park Oval #1

State SE 3
Croydon City Arrows v Kingston City
Dorsel Recreational Res Fri 12 Aug KO 8:30PM
Fitzroy City v Peninsula Strikers
Fairfield Park
Nunawading City FC v Doveton
Mahoneys Road Reserve
Old Scotch v Waverley Wanderers
Scotch College
Frankston Pines v Berwick City
Monterey Reserve Sat 13 Aug KO 7:00PM
Mornington v Sun Caulfield
Dallas Brooks Park Sun 14 Aug KO 3:00PM

Provi NW 1
Laverton Park v South Yarra
Laverton Park Reserve
North Sunshine Eagles v North City Lions
Larissa Reserve
Western Eagles v Sporting Whittlesea FC
Polish Sports & Recreational Reserve
Westvale v Corio
McKechnie Reserve
Essendon Utd v FC Strathmore
Aberfeldie Park
Surf Coast v Northern Falcons
Quay Reserve

Provi SE 1
Warragul Utd v Skye Utd
Baxter Park (Warragul)
Brandon Park v Sandringham SC
Freeway Reserve
Hampton Park United v Springvale City
KM Reedy Reserve
Lyndale Utd v Beaumaris
Lyndale Secondary College
Mooroolbark v Monash University
Esther Park Reserve
Old Melbourne's v Old Camberwell Grammar
Robert Menzies Reserve

Provi NW 2
Bell Park v Upfield
Bell Park Sports Club
Elwood City v Plenty Valley Lions
Elwood Park
Hoppers Crossing v Moreland Utd
Grange Reserve
Lalor Utd v Melbourne City
HR Uren Reserve
Melbourne Tornado v Epping City
Newmarket Reserve
Northern Roosters v West Preston
Gibb Reserve

Provi SE 2
Riversdale v Seaford Utd
Frog Hollow Reserve
Boroondara Eagles v Old Carey
Macleay Park
Caulfield United Cobras SC v Monbulk
Victory Park
Keysborough v Casey Kings
Coomoora Reserve
Uni. of Melbourne v Ashburton United
Princes Park Oval #2
Bayside Argonauts v Endeavour Utd
Shipton Reserve

Provi NW 3
Balmoral FC v Watsonia Heights
Arthur Beachley Reserve
Brimbank Stallions v Heidelberg Stars
Club Italia Sporting Club
Essendon Royals v Mill Park
Reggio Calabria Club
Meadow Park Eagles v Melton Phoenix FC
Gladstone Park Reserve
Moreland Wolves v Youth Utd
Reddish Reserve
Brunswick Zebras v Darebin Utd
Clifton Park

Provi SE 3
Baxter v Old Trinity Grammarians
Baxter Park
Collingwood City v Old Brighton Gramm
Kevin Bartlett Reserve
Noble Park v Rowville Eagles
Norman Luth Reserve
Brighton v Whitehorse Utd
Dendy Park
Middle Park FC v White Star Dandenong
Albert Park Field 16
Eltham Redbacks FC v East Bentleigh
Eltham North Reserve Sat 13 Aug KO 7:00PM

Seniors		PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST							Reserves								
Middle Park FC 1 Whitehorse Utd 1, Noble Park 3 Eltham Redback FC 2, Collingwood City 1 (S Lecaros) Old Trinity Grammarians 0, Rowville Eagles 1 Baxter 4 (R Wilson 2 MP Van Schajik), White Star Dandenong 1 East Bentleigh 3 (K Keane A McCarthy Own Goal), Old Brighton Grammarians 0 Brighton 2 (C Brady G Lark)									Middle Park FC 4 Whitehorse Utd 1, Noble Park 2 Eltham Redback FC 1, Collingwood City 2 Old Trinity Grammarians 1, Rowville Eagles 1 Baxter 5 (B Norris 2 P Disseldorp S Driver R Thompson), White Star Dandenong 4 East Bentleigh 3 (E Israel 2 D Coppock), Old Brighton Grammarians 3 (T Yarwood R McDowell C Gantonas) Brighton 0								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Collingwood City	17	15	0	2	49	13	45		Old Brighton Grammarians	16	13	2	1	44	19	40	
Middle Park FC	17	14	1	2	64	13	43		Collingwood City	17	12	4	1	59	18	47	
Whitehorse Utd	17	12	2	3	40	20	38		Middle Park FC	17	11	4	2	51	21	37	
Old Brighton Grammarians	17	9	2	6	44	31	29		Baxter	17	10	2	5	56	38	47	
Rowville Eagles	17	8	2	7	34	32	26		Whitehorse Utd	17	8	1	8	41	39	25	
Brighton	17	7	2	8	31	32	23		Brighton	16	7	2	7	28	38	23	
Baxter	17	7	1	9	35	36	22		Old Trinity Grammarians	17	7	1	9	31	31	22	
Noble Park	16	7	2	9	35	51	20		Eltham Redback FC	17	5	3	9	24	38	18	
White Star Dandenong	17	6	1	10	28	49	19		Rowville Eagles	17	5	2	10	26	47	17	
Old Trinity Grammarians	17	5	2	10	30	47	17		White Star Dandenong	17	5	0	12	40	51	15	
Eltham Redback FC	17	3	1	12	20	48	17		Noble Park	17	3	2	12	25	56	17	
East Bentleigh	17	3	1	15	19	57	4		East Bentleigh	17	1	5	11	26	55		



Dandenong City in driving seat for top honours in SE2

By Michal Skrodsky

Alright folks, I am back this week which will please some, but probably upset most. I would like to thank Paul Mavroudis for filling in for me, his reporting skills are next to none and wish him all the best in his journalistic career. Anyway, let's dive into this week's matches and with only 5 rounds to go things are really heating up!

State 2 NW saw Ballarat Red Devils win a crucial 6 pointer over fellow promotion candidate Whittlesea ranges 3-0 at Trekardo Park. Moreland City sit on top after a convincing 3-0 win on the road to Williamstown. Werribee are 2nd only 2 points off Moreland after a hardfought 2-1 win over Clifton Hill. The big surprise this week was relegation bound Banyule City winning their first match, a 2-0 win over Altona East, is their still some fight left in the Bulls to pull them out of certain relegation? Only time will tell. Next week first in Moreland City takes on second in Werribee City which will be a huge match.

State 2 SE has Dandenong City in cruise mode, they are 8 points clear on top and this week thumped rivals Heatheron United 7-0 at home. This league really is a battle for second, which is being waged between Malvern City, Eastern Lions, Box Hill United and Morwell Pegasus all of whom were victorious this weekend. Next week Box Hill United take on Morewell in the match of the round.

State 3 NW saw Whittlesea United managed to fight out a 1-1 draw with runaway leaders Keilor Park at home. The boys in purple remain on top by 6 points over La Trobe Uni who are second, La Trobe had a scare on the road against bottom team Geelong Rangers but still managed to take all three points home in a 2-1. Avondale slipped from 2nd to 3rd after failing to defeat fellow promotion hopefuls Yarraville Glory at home in a dour 0-0 draw. Next week there are no real stand out matches.

State 3 SE has the mighty Seagulls sitting on top 4 points clear of second placed Kingston City despite a poor 1-1 draw at Berwick City. Although,



Blake Hicks (Peninsula Strikers) acknowledges the winning goal as Doveton keeper Daniel Stuchbury stretches in vain. Team mate Taulant Mane is on the scene as well. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

all eyes are on the big match being played tonight: Kingston vs Old Scotch. Kingston are second on 36 points and Old Scotch third on 34. With fourth place a distant 7 points behind Old Scotch, this match could decide who will go up and who will have to stay in State 3 next year.

Provisional 1 NW saw the mighty Western Eagles win their second game in a row and claw their way out of the drop zone following a splitting 1-0 win at Strathmore. Strathmore now drop into the bottom two and have their work cut out for them to stay up. At the other end of the table, North Sunshine seem to have gotten their form together and had a thrilling 5-3 at Laverton Park after the scores were locked 2-2 at half time. Sporting Whittlesea remain in second after a 2-0 win over Westvale. South Yarra dropped from second down to fourth after a shock 2-3 loss at home to Surf Coast and Corio remain in the hunt on 32 points (2 off second place)

with South Yarra after a 3-1 win over North City Lions. Next week Western Eagles will be trying to at least steal a point off Sporting Whittlesea.

Provisional 1 SE saw a few upsets with the biggest one being league leaders Springvale City falling 1-2 at the hands of Mooroolbark. This has opened the door for Beaumaris to take top spot. Beaumaris are 2 points off Springvale but have a catch up game at Old Camberwell to go. Old Melburnians, who are third, also had a disappointing 1-2 loss to Sandringham this week making their job mission of promotion a lot tougher as they are now 4 points off Beaumaris.

Provisional 2 NW saw Epping City keep their promotions hopes alive with a huge 4-3 win over leaders West Preston, the win is even more remarkable considering Epping came back from 1-3 down. West Preston luckily remain on top as Moreland United missed a chance to take top

spot with a poor 0-1 loss at home to Lalor United. Hoppers Crossing benefitted the most from the top two slipping up, they are now in third equal points with Moreland and 2 points off West Preston after a grinding 1-0 win at Upfield. Down the bottom of the ladder Melbourne City had a massive 2-0 win in their relegation battle against Melbourne Tornado. The win takes them off the bottom but goal difference keeps them out of the safety zone. Next week Hoppers Crossing and Moreland United show down in a match who will determine second place.

Provisional 2 SE has the boys from Mobulk in cruise control, they are 6 points clear of second and have a match in hand. This week Mobulk defeated Keysborough 1-0. The battle for second is as close as it gets, Riversdale jumped into second on 28 points following a 1-0 win at Caulfield United who drops to third on 27 points. Endeavour United and Seaford



Alex Calder (Peninsula Strikers) is about to try a difficult sidefoot volley in an effort to break the deadlock. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

join Caulfield on 27 points (Endeavour has played 2 less matches) with Keysborough only 2 points back on 25. Next week some crunch matches worth mentioning are Riversdale vs Seaford United and Caulfield United vs Monbulk.

Provisional 3 NW saw Brunswick Zebras defeat Meadow Park 1-0 on the road. The win has the Zebras sitting on top with a 4 point buffer to second placed Heidelberg Stars. The race for second is on in this league, Heidelberg remain in second despite a 1-1 draw with Balmoral but Essendon Royals are now on equal points with Heidelberg following a 3-2 win at Watsonia Heights for the Royals. Moreland Wolves are the other team in the promotion hunt and are 2 points behind the Stars and the Royals, the Wolves are a convincing 4-1 win over Mill Park this week.

Provisional 3 SE had a huge shock result when league leader Middle Park was held at home 1-1 to third

placed Whitehorse United. This result means Collingwood City have now outright lead by 2 points after a 1-0 win over Old Trinity. Whitehorse remain in the race with that draw but are holding on with their nails as they are 5 points behind Middle Park. Even though are still 5 rounds to go, some pundits mouths are already watering at the scheduled Round 22 showdown between Collingwood and Middle Park which will probably decide the title. Elsewhere, strugglers East Bentleigh won their first game of the year over the mighty White Star Dandenong 3-1 at Greaves Reserve, despite the win their is still little hope that East Bentleigh won't finish last.

Well folks, that is it for this week. With the weather looking nicer there is even more reason to get down to your local club and support them in the final 5 rounds!

CRUNCHALOR!



Doveton captain, Geary Davidson, goes down. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Peninsula Strikers captain, Gary Hughes gets back to help his keeper, Ollie Browning, make sure Doveton's Ted Ithier doesn't do any damage. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

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By Niki Cook

The penultimate round of the Women's Premier League has done little to sort out either the finals or relegation battle, with all aspects of the competition set to go down to the wire. As it stands, there are two teams battling for the minor premiership, two for the second double chance spot, three for the last two finals positions, and three teams trying to avoid being the second team to be relegated. It's the closest WPL has ever been, and the excitement is set to extend into the final round. Round 17, however, produced victories for South Melbourne Women's, Sandringham, Heidelberg and Bundoora, while the points were shared between Casey and Altona.

After being held to a draw by Altona City last weekend, South Melbourne Women's returned to the winners' circle on Wednesday night with a 4-0 defeat of the Emerging Athlete Program at Paisley Park. It was an important victory for South as it looks to secure a top two finish, and two goals in each half made sure of the three points. The EAP battled gamely early on, but Laura Spiranovic opened the scoring for the home side ten minutes before the break, with Tiffany Eliadis adding a second on the stroke of half time.

Two more goals from Spiranovic in the opening fifteen minutes of the second half rounded out the victory. Whilst the EAP has not been enjoying any success in terms of points, it had been only narrowly losing in recent weeks, so this heavy defeat was something of a surprise. It is also the first game all season that the EAP has failed to score.

Friday night's blockbuster at Wembley Park was a crucial one for two sides looking to shore up their positions in the finals, and it was the visiting side, Sandringham, that finished the night the happier of the two. Two goals in the opening 25 minutes from Stephanie Tanti set them on the way to victory, with Ashley Brown adding a third early in the second half to all but wrap up the three points. Yvette Muscat pulled a goal back for Box Hill United just after the half hour, but the home side couldn't add to its tally, and so went down 3-1 for its sixth defeat of the season.

The result ensures that Sandringham enters the last round of the season at the top of the ladder, assured of finishing at least second, and therefore guaranteed the double chance in the finals. Box Hill, on the other hand, finds itself in a precarious position, as it sits fifth on the ladder. It now needs to win its last game of the season, and hope that Casey fails to win, if it is to participate in the finals.

After looking down and out last weekend, Heidelberg United now seems all but guaranteed a place in the top four, following its 6-0 demolition of VCL Country in Morwell on Saturday. Melanie Camilleri scored the only goal of the first half, and she then went on a second half rampage, scoring another five times to end the match with a double hat-trick. The victory propels United to third on the ladder, with two games still to play.

If Heidelberg wins those remaining matches and Sandringham defeats South Melbourne Women's in next Sunday's final game, it would finish second, and grab the double chance. VCL Country has endured a torrid second half to the season, having lost nine consecutive matches and failing to pick up a point since late May. It finishes the season with matches against Casey and the EAP, but has already been condemned to finish at the foot of the ladder.

South Melbourne Women's strengthened its grip on second



WPL action between from South Melbourne's 5-2 win over Doncaster Rovers with Laura Spiranovic bagging a hat-trick. Photo: CINDY NITSOS

place with a 5-2 victory over Doncaster Rovers at Paisley Park on Saturday night, but it was pushed all the way by the already relegated side. Doncaster opened the scoring in the twelfth minute through Christie Tangelos, before Marcela Marques equalised for the home side just after the half hour. Laura Spiranovic put South ahead shortly before half time, to give it a 2-1 lead at the interval. Doncaster has been much improved in the second half of the season and has been pushing teams all the way, and it continued to display that fighting spirit, with Emma Johnson pulling Rovers level six minutes after the restart.

It began to look as though the match would end in a draw, before three quick-fire goals in the final ten minutes secured the three points for South. Spiranovic scored the first and third of them, with Tiffany Eliadis also on target. The win leaves South

second, one point behind Sandringham, which it plays next Sunday, and five points clear of Heidelberg. Doncaster remains tenth on the ladder, but could finish ninth if it wins its final match and other results are favourable. Bundoora United all but secured its WPL status for another season with a crucial 2-0 victory over Ashburton at Ashburton Park on Sunday, leaving its opponent in a dangerous position in the process. Both goals came in an eight minute spell just before the half-time break, to give Bundoora its seventh victory of the season. With both teams, along with Altona, vying to avoid being the second side to be relegated, the importance of the victory cannot be underestimated. As a result of the triumph, Bundoora overtakes its host on the ladder, and it now has a two point advantage over Ashburton, and a four point one over Altona. Both Bundoora

and Altona have two games still to play, while Ashburton has just one, against finals chasing Heidelberg United. Altona City ensured it will go into the last round of the season with a chance of survival, and, for a second consecutive week, held a finals contender to a draw, as it snatched a share of the points at Comets Stadium on Sunday. The result has a contrasting impact on the fortunes of the two clubs; while providing a boost for Altona, Casey now risk missing out on the finals. The home side seemed on course for victory for the majority of the day, after opening the scoring with ten minutes remaining in the first half. Altona, however, had other ideas, and grabbed a vital equaliser in the last minute. The draw leaves Altona two points behind Ashburton, but with the advantage of having two games still to play, compared to Ashburton's one.

Casey drops to fourth, a point behind Heidelberg and one ahead of Box Hill. Having spent the whole season in the top four, Casey now must win its final game against VCL Country to be assured of playing finals. It's a huge week of football ahead for the WPL, with both the finals and relegation battles still yet to be determined. Wednesday night features two matches, with Altona City looking to increase its chances of survival when it takes on the EAP at DISC, while Bundoora United and Heidelberg United will meet at Epping Stadium in a controversially rescheduled match. Last weekend, Heidelberg seemed to have forfeited the game, having failed to produce a suitable change strip for the match, but the FFV decided that the match would be played. With Bundoora fighting to avoid relegation, and Heidelberg looking to secure its place in the finals, it promises to be a

WPL RESULTS
South Melbourne Womens FC 4 (T Eliadis L Spiranovic 3) Emerging Athlete Program 0
Box Hill United 1 (Y Muscat) Sandringham SC 3 (S Tanti 2 A Brown)
VCL Country 0 Heidelberg Utd 6 (M Camilleri 6),
South Melbourne Womens FC 5 (P Bakopoulos L Spiranovic 3 T Eliadis) Doncaster Rovers 2 (E Johnson C Tangelos)
Ashburton 0 Bundoora Utd 2, Casey Comets 1 Altona City 1
Reserves Rd 17: Box Hill United 2 Sandringham SC 0, Casey Comets 2 Altona City 0

WPL LADDER							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sandringham	19	13	2	4	39	15	41
South Melb	19	12	4	3	57	19	40
Heidelberg Utd	18	11	2	5	33	25	35
Casey Comets	19	10	4	5	39	24	34
Box Hill United	19	10	3	6	44	32	33
Bundoora Utd	18	7	5	6	28	24	26
Ashburton	19	7	3	9	28	29	24
Altona City	18	6	4	8	21	29	22
Emerging Ath	18	4	2	12	33	52	14
Doncaster R	19	4	1	14	20	49	13
VCL Country	18	3	0	15	14	58	6

WPL Next Round
Emerging Athlete v Altona City DISC Wed 10 Aug KO 7:30PM
Altona City v Box Hill United HC Kim Reserve Sun 14 Aug KO 1:00PM
South Melbourne v Sandringham SC Paisley Park Sun 14 Aug KO 1:00PM
Doncaster Rovers v Bundoora Utd Anderson Park Sun 14 Aug KO 1:00PM
Heidelberg Utd v Ashburton Olympic Village Sun 14 Aug KO 1:00PM
Casey Comets v VCL Country Comets Stadium Sun 14 Aug KO 1:00PM

WPL RESERVES LADDER							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Box Hill United	14	13	1	0	52	9	40
South Melb	14	9	4	1	46	16	31
Sandringham	15	8	2	5	27	13	26
Casey Comets	14	6	2	6	30	24	20
Bundoora Utd	14	5	4	5	17	18	19
Ashburton	14	5	1	8	24	28	16
Heidelberg Utd	14	3	3	8	20	37	12
Altona City	14	2	3	9	10	36	9
Doncaster R	13	1	2	10	9	54	5
Emerging Ath	0	0	0	0			0
VCL Country	0	0	0	0			0

no-holds-barred encounter. Next Sunday, all five matches kick off at 1pm, as the league goes down to the wire. Altona City hosts Box Hill United, with both teams desperate for a win for very different reasons. The two sides guaranteed to play finals, South Melbourne Women's and Sandringham, meet at Paisley Park, with South still not assured of the double chance, while at Anderson Park Doncaster Rovers will aim to finish its WPL experience on a positive note when it hosts relegation battling Bundoora United. Heidelberg United will look to secure its finals berth and potentially relegate Ashburton in the process when the two meet at Olympic Village, while Comets Stadium is the venue when Casey Comets aims to maintain its place in the top four in its final game against VCL Country.

Altona Magic Rain on Muscat’s Sunshine Parade



Muriqi sinks Sunshine
Dubbed the most hated man in England Kevin Muscat turned 38 on Sunday as he was welcomed back to his boyhood club Sunshine George Cross in front of a strong 1000 plus crowd to once again put on his famous number two shirt. The celebrations started early with the club welcoming new Melbourne Victory Manager Mehmet Durakovic to a lovely pre-game Presidents Luncheon.

But the fairy tale was ruined as a 10 men Altona overran Sunshine to grab their eighth victory of the year. As Muscat started smack bang in the middle of the park it was Altona who opened scoring as Milos Lujic headed home in the 25th minute.

Just before halftime a Sunshine penalty was awarded, who else but the ever reliable Muscat to step up and convert the much needed goal for Sunshine. Remarkable scenes at Chaplin Reserve as the homes fans went wild.

Ten minutes after halftime Altona were reduced to ten men as last man Sime Kovacevic cleaned up Sunshine’s Reggie Davani, Muscat stepped up for the free kick which went inches wide. Sunshine were quite confident at this stage but only five minutes later Rini Muriqi put home a scramble in the penalty box as a result of a Altona corner, the home side were shocked.

Sunshine continued to press forward but with no result as Rini Muriqi again found himself on the score sheet, his free kick from out wide missed everyone to make scores 3-1 to Altona at fulltime.

As for Muscat well he was classy and his distribution was good all game. The Muscat buzz was clearly evident after the game as fans flocked for the famous mans signature to his credit Muscat was still signing autographs at Chaplin Reserve until 7:30pm, a big tick for Australian football.

Port all but promoted
Port probably edged this arm wrestle of a game. In terms of opportunities and possession then the game was clearly dominated by Port. Port’s defence was solid again and Haris Verbovac playing against his old team was again impressive as were the entire back line of Roberts, Rosman and Mason. Darryl Roach up front caused problems and unease in the Bulleen defence every time he got the ball.

In the first half Marc Olsen had a 25 yard looping shot cannon back off the crossbar leaving Bulleen keeper Patrick Ndongo rooted to the spot. For all the possession in both the first half but more comprehensively in the second half Port were unable to find the break through. Port’s midfield struggles to provide the conduit between the defensive solidity and the attacking options they possess up front. At times on Friday night it looked like the two Port midfielders had read the Terry Butcher manual of midfield play, cover to cover. They passed sideways and backwards but rarely forwards and if you want to watch things go round and round in circle then you would go watch a carousel not the Port midfield. The delivery from corners had



Action from the clash between Langwarrin and Whittlesea Zebras. PHOTOS: DARRYL KENNEDY



Kevin Muscat made his return to Sunshine George Cross and his old stamping ground. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

been poor all match with some of them barely getting off the ground, unacceptable at this level. Having come off the bench in the 70th minute player/coach Eric Vassiliadis finally delivered a corner of quality which went through the keeper Ndongo’s hand at the near post and was headed goal ward by Haris Verbovac while Ryan O Hare made certain by ensuring the ball was knocked into the back of the net. Ndongo’s protests that he had been impeded by one of Port’s strikers were waved away by the Referee who it must be said didn’t enjoy a particularly good match, lacking consistency of approach in the decisions he was making. Up until that stage the Ndongo had looked very confident and assured. This game yet again demonstrates Port’s ability to just edge out a game when required. Port Melbourne have moved 7 points clear with 5 games to play. Two more wins will all but secure promotion to their home away from home the VPL for season 2012.

Fire works at Lawton Park as Zebras & Warrin all square
Extraordinary scenes at Lawton Park Reserve in a game which ended 2-2, Langwarrin battled back from being twice down following goals to Whittlesea’s Vin-

cent Faherty and Stuart Nicholson. Langwarrin displayed all the battling tendencies that they have become synonymous with under Gus McLeod’s stewardship with equalising goals to Nicholas D’Angelo and Caleb Nicholes. Whittlesea took the lead much against the run of play in the first half after Langwarrin had set out clearly that they were not there to make up the numbers. The Whittlesea keeper Rob Santilli was at fault in both Langwarrin goals giving away needless free kicks that resulted in equalising goals. For the second goal 3 minutes from time he committed a needless challenge on Caleb Nicholes then putting both his hands into his face and was quite lucky to stay on the pitch. Caleb Nichols stepped up and steered an unstoppable shot past the wall and hapless Santilli, 2-2 with 3 minutes to go. Cue Whittlesea Manager Dominic Barba to launch a tirade of abuse on Santilli accusing him of costing the match and some would say Whittlesea’s chances of promotion. Santilli reacted poorly to this abuse running the best part of 45 metres to exchange more than pleasantries. Thankfully both parties were kept apart by team mates before an even uglier scene could unfold be-

fore their loyal spectators. In the last minute Santilli tipped over a header which was unquestionably going to go in. The full time whistle blew with scores at 2-2. While tempers still remaining high within the Whittlesea camp, Gus McLeod cleverly detained Barba to prevent him blowing another gasket whilst the players shook hands. If this was bad enough, worse was to follow in the changing room with an extremely heated and agitated argument breaking out resulting in Santilli being pushed out of the rooms by his team-mates to regain his composure. Has the Whittlesea bubble burst? Well apparently not because on the same night fellow promotion pushers Southern Stars went down to Langwarrin. As we went to print on Sunday night we have been assured by the Whittlesea camp that all is back to normal as player and manager shared a quiet beer on the same night reminiscing on a high flying year. After the game Langwarrin Manager said “we came back two times against a quality side so were happy with that we will keep fighting”

Stars drop points again
North Geelong Warriors bounced back from their draw last week at Pascoe Vale to up-set promotion pushers Southern Stars at Kingston Health Soccer Complex. The victory pushed the Warriors out to 20 points, seven better than last placed Preston. Nathan Long, Mijo Trupkovic (2) scored for North Geelong, while youngster Val Mitrovic accounted for Southern Stars’ only goal. The visitors raced out to a quick 1-0 lead in the ninth minute after a splendid quick sequence. Nathan Long was found near the edge of the Stars eighteen yard area. The youngster held the ball and drew Stars’ defenders towards him as he intelligently chipped Stars keeper Robert Acs. The Warriors again scored in the 15th minute. Captain Mijo Trupkovic swung a 30-yard free kick to the right corner, the Stars wall and keeper Acs were left glued to the ground.

20 minutes in it was the visitors who were awarded a controversial penalty as the referee had seen an apparent push in the penalty box. It was again the ever reliable captain Mijo Trupovic who stepped up and scored. Just before halftime the game was about to take another interesting twist as star North Geelong striker Mark Paleka been unluckily sent off for a sliding challenge or to be more correct a 50/50 ball, poor decision from the official. After the halftime break not much was going to change as Southern Stars started committing numbers forward but North Geelong keeper Daniel Zilic again showed his worth pulling of some fine saves. A goal to youngster Val Mitrovic was not enough for the Stars as they again failed to gain vital points. Pascoe Vale too strong for Suburbs Both teams were desperate for three points in this vital game but it was Pascoe Vale the more desperate out of the two teams. Luca Santilli opened scoring early in the first half thanks to a precise Liam Flynn cross from the left hand side. Deep into the second half it was a deflected Jason Dodwell goal that seen Western Suburbs go into the halftime break quite lucky to be at even terms as Pascoe Vale were the better side. Just after halftime Joseph Youssef put Vale in the lead with an 18 yard pigeon, it was a deserved lead

SL1 RESULTS										
Port Melbourne 1 FC Bulleen Lions 0,										
Langwarrin 2 Whittlesea Zebras 2										
Pascoe Vale 2 Western Suburbs 1,										
Southern Stars 1										
North Geelong Warriors 3,										
Under 21s: Rd 17:										
Port Melbourne 0 FC Bulleen Lions 0										
Langwarrin 0 Whittlesea Zebras 3										
Pascoe Vale 4 Western Suburbs 2,										

SL1 LADDER										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Port Melbourne	17	11	4	2	27	13	37			
Southern Stars	15	9	3	3	25	17	30			
Whittlesea Z	17	8	5	4	29	21	29			
Pascoe Vale	17	7	2	8	32	22	23			
Sun George X	16	6	4	6	23	23	22			
Bulleen Lions	17	6	4	7	20	20	22			
Altona Magic	16	7	3	6	25	24	21			
Fawkner Blues	16	6	2	8	19	16	20			
North Geelong	16	6	2	8	18	26	20			
Western Subs	17	6	2	9	19	27	20			
Langwarrin	16	4	4	8	21	29	16			
Preston Lions	16	4	1	11	21	41	13			

SL1 Next Round										
Altona Magic v Preston Lions										
<i>Paisley Park</i>										
<i>Sat 13 Aug KO 3:00PM</i>										
Fawkner Blues v Pascoe Vale										
<i>CB Smith Reserve</i>										
<i>Sat 13 Aug KO 3:00PM</i>										
Langwarrin v Port Melbourne										
<i>Lawton Park Reserve</i>										
<i>Sat 13 Aug KO 3:00PM</i>										
Southern Stars v Western Suburbs										
<i>Kingston Health Soccer Complex</i>										
<i>Sat 13 Aug KO 3:00PM</i>										
Whittlesea Zebras v Nth Geelong Warriors										
<i>Epping Soccer Stadium</i>										
<i>Sun 14 Aug KO 3:00PM</i>										
FC Bulleen Lions v Sun George Cross										
<i>Veneto Social Club</i>										
<i>Mon 15 Aug KO 8:30PM</i>										

SL1 U21 LADDER										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Bulleen Lions	17	12	1	4	58	17	37			
Fawkner Blues	16	9	4	3	35	21	31			
Pascoe Vale	17	10	1	6	40	31	31			
Western Subs	17	10	0	7	34	37	30			
Southern Stars	15	9	1	5	34	30	28			
North Geelong	15	8	2	5	27	18	26			
Whittlesea Z	17	8	2	7	32	28	26			
Langwarrin	16	6	1	9	21	42	19			
Sun George X	16	4	2	10	30	44	14			
Port Melbourne	17	3	4	10	21	38	13			
Altona Magic	16	4	3	9	29	37	12			
Preston Lions	15	3	1	11	20	38	10			

for Vale as they continually dominated. A solid and well organised victory for the home side who grabbed only their fourth home win of the season. After the game Western Suburbs Manager said “the next couple of games are quite vital, they (Pascoe Vale) wanted it more today and the result showed that. The big game for us will be against Langwarrin at home in Round 21.”

All square for Preston and Fawkner
Fawkner and Preston have drawn 0-0 in an enthralling game at BT Connor Reserve in a re-match of their clash early in the year which seen Preston record a 3-1 victory. The skillful Blues, without many of their leading stars, had some great scoring chances, but the Lions gave as good as they got in the end-to-end contest. Fawkner have all but ended Preston’s quest to stay in SL1 with five games remaining Preston will have to win all their games and hope results go their way. Stranger things have happened in SL1 this year.



SPRINGVALE W EAGLES

HEIDELBERG UNITED

Match Details

Springvale White Eagles Lineup:
23 Nebojsa VUJIC; 4 Boris BAJIC,
5 Jason CORBETT, 8 Gordan,
MRDIC, 12 Dushan NIKOLIC,
16 Dominic D'Angelo, 17 Zoran
VUKAS, 19 Goran ZORIC (14
Emre CAMUZCU 63'), 20 Stojan
MILOJEVIC, 21 Dejan ERAKOVIC,
24 Lewis KARANICOLAS

Goals: Vukac 20', Zoric 54',
Camuzcu 88'

Yellow Cards: Vukac

Heidelberg United Lineup:
1 Rhyss KEANE (32 Jason KOUT-
SODONTIS 60'); 3 Leslie DOUM-
BALIS, 14 Craig ELVIN, 13 Luke
BYLES, 6 Steve MARTIN, 7 Hamlet
ARMENIAN (19 Denis ALILOVIC
70'), 2 Yared HAILEMELKOT, 11
Evan CHRISTODOLOU, 8 Andrew
NABOUTT (Sean McILROY 57'),
20 Saso ALEXOVSKI, 18 Osagie
EDERADO

Goal: Ederaro 15'

Springvale White Eagles Bow Out In Style

By John Fotinos

The final round of the 2011 Alanic VPL home & away season has seen relegated Springvale White Eagles cause a major upset with its 3-1 win over Heidelberg United. The result has not only cost Heidelberg United any chance of taking out the Minor Championship, but thrusts it into a knock-out Elimination Final next week against arch-rival South Melbourne.

This afternoon's match began in fine & partly sunny conditions on a very good quality playing surface. Springvale, already relegated to State League Division 1 in 2012, had only pride to play for, whereas Heidelberg United knew that only a win could give it any chance of taking out the Minor Championship title. The visitors would have thought it was all going to plan after 15 minutes, when Osagie Ederaro was on hand to give Heidelberg the lead. The goal came about following some indecision in the Springvale defence, failing to clear a cross from Christodoulou, with Ederaro able to slot the ball home past Vujic.

Just five minutes later, Springvale equalised through Zoran Vukac, after being found by teammate D'Angelo's neat through pass, following some strong lead-up work on the right by Karanicolas.

Springvale almost grabbed the lead twice through Goran Zoric, whose pace & guile was beginning to cause the Heidelberg defence some headaches. On 24 minutes, he found space on the left, but spray a low shot well wide of the far post & then 10 minutes later, intercepted a poor pass from Byles, but again his shot at goal was wide of the mark. Shortly before the main break, Ederaro broke down the left for Heidelberg & cut back a cross that found Hailemelkot, who misdirected a headed effort wide.

With the scores level at 1-1 at half-



Goran Zoric celebrates his goal with his team mates that robbed Heidelberg of the minor premiership.
Photo: ANITA MILAS

time, Heidelberg came out early in the second half eager to regain the lead, but striker Saso Aleksovski missed a great opportunity when a lay off from Armenian was blasted over form 15 metres out.

On 54 minutes, the match was turned on its head, when after a swift counter-attack, Vukac played a ball through to Zoric, who shook off marker Craig Elvin, before guiding the ball past the 'keeper to give Springvale a shock 2-1 lead. Despite having to come off the pitch just 10 minutes later, Zoric had made an indelible impact in the match.

Heidelberg suffered a blow on the hour mark, when 'keeper Rhyss Keane was forced from the pitch, having succumbed to a leg injury. Youngster Jason Koutsodontis took his place, and Heidelberg brought on striker McLroy & the experience of Alilovic in an attempt to force a result.

With Heidelberg now pushing more players forward, Springvale found itself on the back foot, a combination of resolute defence & some wayward finishing by Heidelberg saw the hosts barely maintain their advantage. In the last 10 minutes of play, McLroy

missed a chance to equalise & set up a tense finish, when he shot well over from close range. Steve Martin twice saw his efforts come off the woodwork, as an increasingly desperate Heidelberg sensed their hopes of snatching a win fade.

With just two minutes to play, Springvale confirmed their win following a goal on the break to substitute Camuzcu, who side-footed home a pin-point cross from Vukas to give his side an unassailable 3-1 lead.

For Springvale, despite finishing off the season on a high note, and gain-

ing some degree of revenge for their 9-0 loss to the 'Bergers earlier in the season, it returns to State League Division 1 football after only one season back in the top flight. Heidelberg United, which finished the season in fifth place, takes on South Melbourne at SS Anderson Reserve, Port Melbourne, in next week's Elimination Final – with the game to kick off at 3:00pm on Sunday 14th August. In this afternoon's Under-21's fixture, the final score was Springvale White Eagles 3 – Heidelberg United 3.



Zoran Vukas slips one just under the goalies fingertips and scores the first goal of the game for SWE in the 20' Photo: ANITA MILAS



Goran Zoric waves his finger at the Heidelberg's goalie in a cheeky celebration of a goal.
Photo: ANITA MILAS

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Season draws to a close in stalemate

By Daniel Quinn

St. Albans and Richmond failed to enlighten the small crowd at Churchill Reserve in a dead rubber. St. Albans made three changes from last week's 4-1 thrashing by Heidelberg with Tomislav Milardovic, Michael Grgic and Maks Cuze all injured. Rearo Luka, Daniel Dragovic and Anthony Themistokleous coming in. Scott Muirhead being replaced by Mate Eterovic was Richmond's only change.

With Heidelberg beating VTC on Wednesday night Richmond's hope of making the Victorian Premier League Finals was over. St. Albans were third from bottom and already relegated as last placed VTC cannot be relegated. With those two facts both teams had nothing to play for and it showed on the pitch with both teams lacking enthusiasm. A poor, slippery and muddy pitch also didn't help either side.

On 5 minutes Ross Antoniadis had the first chance with a header put over from a drilled Michael Ferrante free kick. But it was St. Albans who scored first from their first chance on 15 minutes with former Richmond player Daniel Visevic scored with a whipping free kick, from the right hand side of the pitch, about 5 metres out from the by line. Although it looked like a stunning strike it looked like more of a cross come shot. Despite the goal the small crowd were shocked but also were not enthused.

It seemed Richmond were butchering their chances with Nick Marinis heading straight at the Keeper on 32 minutes. Two minutes later Richmond had their best chance from Devon Bonne. Marinis played in Bonne whose poor shot was saved by Saints Keeper Frano Saric. Five minutes later on 39 Michael Catalano finally capitalised on a chance and opened

the scoring with a fine, slotted, left footed finish pass Saric.

On 41 minutes Timmy Purcell was played through via a long ball from the back but Saric rushed out well to collect. Seconds later Marinos played a great ball to Bonne whose wayward pass scooped another chance. It stayed 1-1 to half-time.

Richmond had many opportunities in the second half through Michael Ferrante's corners. On 52 minutes one of his corners was connected by Andrew Viola whose header was saved on the line by Daniel Piovesan and Frano Saric. One minute later St. Albans had their first chance of the second-half when Daniel Visevic had his right foot shot punched by Eagles Keeper Stjepan Gal. Two minutes later on 55 Marinos ran onto a through ball from Timmy Purcell but Saric slid in to save.

On 67 minutes St. Albans changed to a 4-4-2 system instead of their normal 4-2-3-1. This change provided chances almost immediately with Louis Fenton's shot save by Gal on 69. Only seconds later Visевич had a pile driver hit just over the bar.

Mistakes were kicking in from both teams with poor decision making and poor crossing coming into their play. On 80 minutes Antoniadis again put a header over after another brilliant Ferrante corner. In stoppage time both teams had one last crack with Ferrante's left foot strike which didn't have enough power and was hit along the ground to trouble Saric. Like Ferrante, Stefan Piorkowski for St. Albans had his shot easily saved by Gal. Richmond and St. Albans' last game finished 1-1. St. Albans finished the 2011 Victorian Premier League 12th, one point ahead of VTC and relegated to State League One. Richmond finished in 7th three points out of the final series.

In the under 21's Richmond defeated St. Albans 4-0.



Richmond's subdued Michael Catalano after scoring for the Eagles.
Photo: STEVE STABEK



Saints' Daniel Visevic (10) sees his free kick pearler curl into the net.
Photo: STEVE STAREK



Saints keeper Frano Saric had a good game and punches clear.
Photo: STEVE STAREK

4

2

Match Details

Melbourne Knights Line Up:

M. John, S. Romein, R. Filipovic, L. Shin, T. Uskok, J. Magdic, J. Kozic (M. Beckitt 72'), A. Colosimo, A. Zilic, J. Colosimo (K. Vincent 67'), C. Sweeney (S. Alinejad 81').
Not Used: M. Hrsto
Goals: J. Colosimo 42', K. Vincent 72', 84', S. Alinejad 92'.

Hume City Line Up:

L. Acevski, S. Pir, P. Seveski, R. Thompson (Ofli 32'), F. DiLizia, D. Delic, I. Erdogan, S. Bozinovski, P. Riccobene, Z. Petrevski, R. Cardozo.
Not Used: K. Geroh, M. Bosevski, A. Vlahos
Goals: R. Cardozo 43', 61'.

MoM:
Paul Magdic
(Knights Coach, for well executed substitutions).

Crowd: Approx. 750 @ Knights Stadium.

Knights Deny Hume Minor Premiership

By Andrew Fisher

A superb second half comeback from the Melbourne Knights has seen them record an impressive 4-2 victory over Hume City, and consequently knocking them off top spot in the last round of the Alanic Victorian Premier League at Knights Stadium.

Hume City required just a victory to secure the Minor Premiership and earn a week off in the lead up to the finals, and would have come to Knights Stadium full of confidence knowing the Melbourne Knights had nothing but pride to play for.

However the Knights did not read the script, and forced the visitors onto the back foot early with some quick passing and forward pressure. Shaun Romein testing Acevski in the Hume goal in the 12th minute and found the keeper equal to the task.

It looked like the scores would remain deadlocked at half time, before the game burst into life in the closing minutes of the half. Jacob Colosimo finished superbly, with his back to goal he managed to loop his header over Acevski and off the inside of the crossbar to give the Knights a deserving lead.

That lead was short lived, as immediately from kick-off Richie Cardozo volleyed home from inside the penalty area for an instant equalizer from the visitors.

The Knights spurned a glorious opportunity to regain the lead early into the second half, with

Josip Magdic clean through on goal, only to be denied by a fantastic save from Acevski.

Hume looked to have secured top spot on the hour mark, as Richie Cardozo pounced on some shambolic defending from the Knights to finish from close range, despite looking to be in an offside position.

Knights' coach Paul Magdic re-shuffled his forward line and brought on Kayne Vincent and Melvin Beckitt, and the pair had an instant impact. Beckitt supplied a sublime lob over the Hume defence to set Vincent clean though on goal, he produced an equally impressive lob to chip Acevski and level the scores at two-two.

With Hume now pushing forward in search of a winning goal, the Knights hit the visitors on the rebound, and just eight minutes later Vincent again found himself with only Acevski to beat, after being assisted by Uskok, and had no trouble giving the Knights a 3-2 lead.

There was still time for the Knights to grab another in stoppage time as Beckitt crossed in a pin point ball for another substitute Alinejad to head home unmarked at the back post to round off an impressive win for the home side.

With the season now done and dusted for the Melbourne Knights, they can turn their attention to the quarter finals of the Mirabella Cup, where they ironically take on Hume City this Wednesday at Knights Stadium.



Shayan Alinejad celebrates with Josip Magdic after scoring the sealer of a resounding victory in stoppage time. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Knights' Adam Zilic slides in to challenge Hume's Phil Riccobene. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Shayan Alinejad scores with a header for the Knights shortly after coming on as substitute. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

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GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS



5

BENTLEIGH GREENS



0

Match Details

Bentleigh Greens:

Peter Gavalas (Gk, C)
Joey Calderone, Michael Gwyther, Wayne Wallace, Scott Bulloch, Alex Rojas, Adam Fadljevic, Aron Wilford, Mackie Simmons,

Luke Pilkington, Ryan De Vries

Subs: Luke Gavalas (Gk), Curran Ferns, Marcus Cariel, Billy Liolios, Craig Smart

Goals: -

Yellow Cards: -

Best: Wallace, Bulloch, De Vries

Green Gully:

Nikola Roganovic (Gk), Daniel Jones, Dean Kerr, Cameron Drake, Stephen Downes, Jeffrey Fleming (C), Graham Hockless, Matthew Sanders, Mile Medjedovic, Andy Vargas, JOel Nikolic

Subs: Mason Interlandi (Gk), Joel Bistrick, Pasquale Vizzari, Jonathon Munoz, Joshua Pugh

Goals: 20' Vargas, 44' Sanders, 50' Hockless, 51' Jones, 81' Vizzari

Yellow Cards: -

Best: Hockless, Vargas, Roganovic.

Gully clinches VPL Minor Premiership

By Rory Flanagan

To the victor go the spoils. Green Gully snatched the minor premiership out of the hands of Hume and Oakleigh, being the only team in the VPL to win in the final round.

In an astounding climax to the home and away season, Green Gully Cavaliers leapt into first place with a 5-0 thumping of Bentleigh, aided by the capitulations of the three sides above them. For the second season in a row; the Minor Premiership has been handed to the visiting team at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex. Five individual goalscorers and a stout defensive performance helped Gully on their way to victory.

Kicking off in glorious sunshine, the visitors almost suffered an early setback when Andy Vargas nearly turned Michael Gwyther's header into his own net. From the resulting corner, Bentleigh's likely candidate for player of the season Wayne Wallace, headed Scott Bulloch's cross wide of the target.

Star attacking midfielder Graham Hockless registered his side's first shot with a thunderous effort crashing into his own teammate Stephen Downes in the tenth minute.

In a tightly contested opening period, Alex Rojas was the next to try his luck, audaciously attempting a lob over Nikola Roganovic from 20 yards.

Wayne Wallace went on a Matthew Le Tissier-like run, flicking the ball over a defender before unleashing a vicious volley at Roganovic's goal. The Cavaliers keeper was up to the task and parried the shot wide. Gully took the lead against the run of play when Graham Hockless played in Andy Vargas with a typical classy through ball. Vargas charged into the box and finished with composure from an angle to put his side a goal to the good.

Bentleigh did not go back into their shells though. Mid season recruit Ryan De Vries has produced some stellar performances and tantalising displays since joining the Greens and he went close with a half volley fizzing past the base of the post.

Scott Bulloch came close to producing a candidate for goal of the season. The Greens number ten fired a rocket towards the top corner from 25 yards only to be denied by stunning reactions from Roganovic. Again Wayne Wallace's aerial superiority proved a handful for the away side but the imposing midfielder headed over the bar.

Hockless cheekily opted to strike a wide free kick towards bottom corner, but Michael Gwyther read the danger and nodded the ball behind for a corner. Towering centre-back Milé Medjedovic rose highest to power a header down into the turf, with Gavalas just managing to get a fingertip on the ball to send it over.

On the stroke of half time, the Cavaliers edged further in front through Mathew Sanders. Captain Jeffery Fleming cut the ball back for the easiest of tap-ins, crushing the morale of the Greens.

With scores filtering in from other grounds, Gully found themselves in a position to claim top spot but it still seemed against the odds.

Shortly after the restart, the team from Keilor wrapped up the points through Hockless. The 2010 Grand Final MVP grabbed a thoroughly deserved goal in the 50th minute, calmly



Bentleigh Greens manage to avert conceding another goal as keeper Peter Gavalas gets down to prevent Matthew Sanders from having a shot. Curran Ferns backs up. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Gully had plenty to celebrate at Kingston Heath with an emphatic win securing the premiership. JOHN PUNSHON

sliding the ball past Gavalas into the back of the net.

It soon became a question of how many as Daniel Jones was in the right place at the right time to bundle home a corner just five minutes later and record his side's fourth.

Playing for little more than pride, Bentleigh produced shambolic moments whilst their opponents appeared to be in cruise control.

Joel Nikolic came within centimetres

of adding a fifth when he collected a wonderful through ball and struck the base of the far post.

Pasquale Vizzari eventually did score the fifth, just seconds after coming off the bench replacing Nikolic. His first touches came in one on one situation with Gavalas and the youngster finished with aplomb.

Everything was going right for Green Gully. They somehow managed to clear three successive chances and



It's high fives for Gully as they whisk the minor title out from under everyone's nose. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

preserve their clean sheet whilst other results around the grounds began to fall into place.

Hume's self-destruction against Melbourne and Heidelberg's loss at the hands of relegated Springvale meant that if Oakleigh failed to beat Dandenong, the minor premiership would be travelling to Keilor Downs. After full time was blown at Kingston Heath, Gully faced a nervous wait on the outcome of the match at

Jack Edwards. As the announcement came through on the PA system, the team in fourth place at the start of the day erupted in euphoria with a roaring rendition of their club song.

Green Gully will now wait to see whether it is Oakleigh or Hume they take on in the Major Semi final.

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Alanic VPL Final Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Green Gully Cavaliers	24	13	4	7	51	23	43
Oakleigh Cannons	24	13	4	7	41	29	43
Hume City	24	12	6	6	48	32	42
South Melbourne	24	12	5	7	39	33	41
Heidelberg Utd	24	12	7	5	53	26	40
Northcote City	24	11	6	7	61	37	39
Richmond Eagles	24	11	4	9	34	38	37
Bentleigh Greens	24	10	6	8	34	34	36
Dandenong Thunder	24	12	5	7	43	29	35
Melbourne Knights	24	8	7	9	39	33	31
Springvale White Eagles	24	3	6	15	24	62	15
St Albans Saints	24	3	4	17	27	58	13
VTC Football	24	4	0	20	25	85	12

Alanic VPL Finals Series - Week 1

QUALIFYING FINAL

Oakleigh Cannons v Hume City

Sun 14 August KO 6:15pm

Jack Edwards Reserve

Edwards St, Oakleigh (MEL 69 H9)

ELIMINATION FINAL

South Melbourne v Heidelberg United

Sun 14 August KO 3:00pm

SS Anderson Reserve

Plummer St, Port Melbourne (MEL 56 K1)

Under 21s

	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pt	Under 21 results were not available at the time of going to press.
South Melbourne	23	15	4	4	4	7	24	49		
Hume City	23	15	3	5	62	26	48			
Melbourne Knights	23	13	6	4	66	30	45			
Oakleigh Cannons	22	12	5	5	59	33	41			
Green Gully Cavaliers	22	11	5	6	45	29	38			
Northcote City	22	11	3	8	47	34	36			
Heidelberg Utd	21	9	3	9	36	37	30			
VTC Football	21	9	1	11	39	50	28			
Richmond	23	8	3	12	39	61	27			
Dandenong Thunder	23	7	3	13	35	48	24			
Bentleigh Greens	23	6	4	13	41	55	22			
Springvale White Eagles	23	5	1	17	31	83	16			
St Albans Saints	23	2	5	16	25	62	8			

Men's Metropolitan League & Women's Weekend Scoreboard

Mens Metropolitan League North-West: Rd 17: Northern Utd 3 Keilor Wolves 3, Tullamarine Jets 0 Bundoora Utd 4 (G Akouri R Galati A Nikolski CN Lomini), Sunshine Heights Western Tigers FC 1 (N Deng) Light Utd 0, Mitchell Rangers 2 (S Bishop PD Campbell) Keon Park 2									
Mens Metropolitan League North-West Reserves: Rd 17: Northern Utd 2 Keilor Wolves 26, Mitchell Rangers 6 (D Tann 2 P Williams C Maidment A Emond 2) Keon Park 2									
Mens Metropolitan League South-East: Rd 17: Ringwood City 2 St Kevins 1, Endeavour Hills 0 Old Mentonians 4, Glen Waverley 2 Dandenong Wolves 3, Harrisfield Hurricanes 3 Aston Athletic Football Club 0,									
Mens Metropolitan League South-East Reserves: Rd 17: Endeavour Hills 2 (V BARAH J Yong Yan Yung) Old Mentonians 4, Glen Waverley 2 Dandenong Wolves 1, Harrisfield Hurricanes 4 Aston Athletic Football Club 1, Ringwood City 2 St Kevins 3									
Mens Metropolitan League Central: Rd 17: Manningham 5 (D Batticciotto T Da Silva RP Sabaratnam A Hussein 2) Moonee Valley Knights 2, Carlton Youth 1 Albert Park 2 (E Rau 2), Caulfield Grammarians 2 Melbourne Lions 4, Yarra Jets 1 North Lions 2									
Mens Metropolitan League Central Reserves: Rd 17: Manningham 5 (J Neelyou F Hossain J Monge A Clements T Hatzeleos) Moonee Valley Knights 0, Caulfield Grammarians 4 Melbourne Lions 1, Yarra Jets 0 North Lions 2									
Womens State League Div 1: Rd 14: Preston Lions 2 Monbulk Rangers SC 1, Bayswater Strikers 1 Cairnlea 12 (T Hussein 5 D Mutuel 3 Y Latif N Cileli 2 S Bokovski), South Yarra 1 Ballarat Lady Devils 3, Uni. of Melbourne 6 South Springvale 1									
Womens State League Div 1 Reserves: Rd 14: Preston Lions 1 Monbulk Rangers SC 4, Bayswater Strikers 1 Cairnlea 7, Uni. of Melbourne 0 South Springvale 2, Brighton 1 Albert Park 0,									
Womens State League Div 2 North-West: Rd 14: Western Suburbs 0 Western Eagles 5, La Trobe University 2 (SA Harris E Stockdale) Keilor Park 2, Whittlesea Ranges FC 5 North Geelong Warriors 2,									
Womens State League Div 2 South-East: Rd 14: Berwick City 6 (S Anthony J Cary 3 K Wilson 2) Noble Park 2, Sandringham SC 1 Mooroolbark 2 (N Carusi A D'Ortenzio),									
Womens State League Div 3 North-West: Rd 14: Boroondara Eagles 5 (A Townshend 2 E Defina 2 A Vakalopoulos) Brunswick City 0, Melton 3 Whittlesea Zebras 0, Sunshine George Cross 1 (J Ghini) Eltham Redback FC 5 (S Lockhart 2 L Peric H Richards L Brazzale), Uni. of Melbourne 1 Old Carey 2, Diamond Valley Utd 0 Melbourne Knights 1									
Womens State League Div 3 South-East: Rd 14: Croydon City Arrows 5 (J McDonald N Carusi S Davies 2 M Panozza) Baxter 0, Endeavour Utd 2 Langwarrin 3, Monash University 6 (J Clarke S Egan RS Kanahara 2 N Perera C Vandestadt) Dandenong City 0, Knox City 0 South Melbourne 4									
Womens Metropolitan League North-West: Rd 14: Mitchell Rangers 3 (L Buggy 2 E Harborne) Kyneton District 2, Watsonia Heights 4 (G Cahill L Fadelis 3) Fawkner 0, Gisborne 1 Darebin Falcons 3,									
Womens Metropolitan League South-East: Rd 14: Dandenong Wolves 16 (E Heeger (Rault) 2) Beaumaris 1, Old Haileybury 2 Sandringham SC 3, Skye Utd 3 Casey Comets 5, Keysborough 0 Bayside Argonauts 5									
Womens Metropolitan League Central: Rd 14: Port Melbourne 4 Elwood City 0, Brunswick Zebras 1 (F Farnan) Maribymong Swifts FC 3									
Mens Metropolitan League East - North East: Rd 14: Croydon City Arrows 2 Mooroolbark 2 (S Schubert S Lawley), Monash University 0 Deakin Lions FC 1, Boroondara Eagles 1 Monbulk Rangers SC 0, La Trobe University 4 (E Stockdale 2 RL Ambrose J Wild-Lorenzetto) Swinburne University 0,									
Mens Thirds League Div 1: Rd 14: DOC Utd 1 Altona Lions 6, Doveton 0 Bayside Argonauts 3, South Yarra 2 Marcellin Old Collegians 1, Parkmore 1									
Mens Thirds League Div 2 North-West: Rd 14: FC Strathmore 3 Plenty Valley Lions 3, Keilor Park 0 Gisborne 3									
Mens Thirds League Div 2 South-East: Rd 14: Brandon									

Mens	Metropolitan	League	Central	Reserves
P	W	D	L	F A PT
Albert Park	15	12	1	2 57 26 37
North Lions	15	10	3	2 36 22 33
Altona North	15	9	2	4 31 22 29
Manningham	15	8	1	6 47 28 25
Melbourne Lions	14	7	1	6 32 32 22
Yarra Jets	15	8	1	6 31 33 22
Caulfield Grammarians	16	2	1	10 22 41 10
Carlton Youth	16	2	1	13 26 49 7
Moonee Valley Knights	15	2	1	12 21 50 7

Mens	Metropolitan	League	Central	Reserves
P	W	D	L	F A PT
Albert Park	14	13	0	1 49 16 39
Manningham	15	10	3	2 45 18 33
North Lions	15	7	5	3 29 22 26
Melbourne Lions	14	7	1	6 43 36 22
Altona North	15	5	4	6 31 37 19
Caulfield Grammarians	14	4	3	7 24 42 15
Carlton Youth	14	4	2	

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